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### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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#### Politics of Europe.

Our Paper of to-day contains the last portion of the Work of Lieut. White, on British India, that we propose to give for the present. It closes the Chapter on the Civil Government of the Country, and cannot fail, we should hope, to elicit much Correspondence on the various topics therein contained, from Gentlemen in the Service who may have it in their power to confirm or elucidate any of the statements put forth, or to correct any inaccuracies into which the Writer may have fallen; as it is only by the test of such scrutiny in the Country of which the Book treats, that its character can be established. In reverting to the Politics of Europe, it is more easy and more useful to review the transactions of the past than to speculate on or predict the probable events of the future: and with this feeling, we present our readers with the following article, as partaking most largely of the former description.

*Closing of Parliament.*—The public look with more or less of attention to official Speeches at the opening or closing of Parliament, according to the general importance of the measures which in the one case are likely to be announced, and in the other to be retraced. Yesterday gave birth to no less than two documents of the retrospective kind—the Speech of his Majesty, and that which was delivered at the bar of the Lords by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The King was concise; and the sentiments put into his Majesty's mouth were not such as required to be criticised. The Right Hon. the Speaker was somewhat more diffuse in his harangue. We shall notice, however, but one passage, wherein he affirms, that with respect to the agricultural distresses, "it was obvious that the only efficient relief within the control of Parliament, was such a *reduction of taxation* as could be effected consistent with an adequate provision for the services of the state," &c. Now here it is needless to make any further remark, than that whatever pains Lord Londonderry might have taken in compounding the Royal Speech, it is plain that his Lordship could not have been consulted about the getting up of the Speaker's. The noble Marquis would have taught the Right Hon. Gentleman a sounder doctrine than that of ascribing relief to any diminution of taxes: for all the world heard his Lordship declare, not many months ago, that "if the whole mass of taxes could be swept away at once, it would have no material influence in *relieving the distresses of the nation!*"

Thus has closed a long and busy, and in some respects an important Session of Parliament. From the point to which its proceedings have conducted us, we may now look back over the ground that has been traversed, and it may not be disadvantageous to compare the actual position on which as a nation we stand, with that whence we started on the 5th of February. One prominent feature in the scene demands some preliminary notice: and we begin by observing, that at the county and other public meetings which had preceded the opening of the Session, all the grievances which oppressed the country were assumed to be embodied in the sufferings of the landed interest, which accordingly formed the chief subject of lamentation and debate. Two distinct remedies were then proposed, as fit to be recommended to Parliament. One of these was a peculiar favourite with that large class of Country Gentlemen whose confidence in Ministers could not be shaken, even by the wretchedness in which it had

finally involved themselves. This remedy was no less than a still closer straining of the prohibitory principles of the corn laws. The Ministerial Country Gentlemen thus wilfully blinded themselves and their dependents to the following unquestionable facts:—1st. That the producers of corn already enjoyed the full benefits of a complete prohibition, because the market price of wheat was, and had long been, short by a third of the price at which it could be legally imported. 2d. That since no act of the Legislature, short of establishing a minimum price for corn, could by any possibility increase the gross receipts of the corn-grower, the only means by which he could obtain relief was a diminution of the *expense* at which he produced his corn. 3d. That the farmer's expences were compounded of what he paid for labour, what he paid in tithes and taxes, and what he paid in rent. If, therefore, it was an hopeless matter to think of lessening the price of labour (already lower in *proportion* here than in any other country except Ireland), or of reducing the rate of tithes, fixed at one-tenth of the gross produce: it was quite clear, although the Country Gentlemen did not see it, that the sole alternative through which the land could remain tenanted at all, must be a sudden and extraordinary sacrifice of rents or an equivalent reduction of taxes. That the question lay between himself and his friend the Minister, which should begin by plucking the other, was what the Country Gentleman in most instances would not understand. His plan was to retain at their existing level, both the rents which supported his large household establishment, and the taxes, of which in return for his votes, he was allowed by Ministers to distribute so large a share among the electors who had sent him into Parliament. But the real opposition between rents and taxes was sometimes forced upon the attention of Country Gentlemen. Resolutions were occasionally moved and carried at the meetings, that retrenchment and reduction of taxes were indispensable. Certain county members made speeches in favour of both; and some went so far as to hint at the expediency of relieving themselves, by the plunder of the public creditor. But retrenchment and reduction, taken together, did constitute the *second public remedy* proposed; and by the more bold and clear-sighted a reform of Parliament was insisted on, as the only pledge that either branch of the above remedy would be realized.

On the 5th of February Parliament met. Measures of coercion for the Irish Insurgents came first under the hand of the Legislature. The Insurrection Act passed—the *Habeas Corpus* Act was suspended: but not a word was breathed about redress of grievances—nor a hint given that it would be politic or humane to provide against impending famine. We can touch but briefly, and in general terms, on the series of motions which were brought forward, remedial, or presumed to be so, of some pressing mischief in our domestic affairs, considered with reference to principles of finance and of economy. On the 7th of February the Norfolk petition was presented, praying for economy and reform, and for abolishing the taxes on salt, malt, leather, soap, and candles. Mr. Wodehouse spoke (here there was no vote in question) for the reduction of the Civil List, and against the tax on malt. On the 11th of February, Mr. Brougham led the way, by a powerful exposition of the financial condition of the empire for several successive years, and of the nature and causes of that unexampled suffering which preyed upon the agricultural interest and through it upon the rest of the

community. From the extent, duration, and progressive increase of the suffering, he inferred the generality and deep foundation of its causes. He thence argued rightly that palliatives would be of no avail. He proved that the rise in the value of money having added above 20 millions per annum to the taxes, while the reduction of the war taxes (regard being had to 3,000,000*l.* laid on afresh in 1819) amounted only to 14,000,000*l.* this country paid actually in the sixth year of peace six or eight millions more in the shape of taxes than she had yielded in the period of most active war; and this, too, under a sensible and scarcely curable contraction of her commercial and manufacturing industry. Mr. Brougham fastened on a reduction of taxes as the sole available instrument of immediate relief, and might have fairly offered it to the Country Gentlemen as at least a temporary safeguard against that grand calamity—an approaching diminution of their rentals. But it was no longer a county meeting—the constituents were away—the Minister was in presence, his fiat, with its sanctions of reward and punishment, was too powerful for conscience and for common sense. He had secretly promised the Country Gentlemen a loan of 4,000,000*l.* for their tenantry, that the latter might be enabled to pay up their arrears of rent: this was the premium for the votes of these landlords; the supplicium was—the “*ultimum supplicium*”—that if they should dare to vote for Mr. Brougham's proposition, he, Lord Londonderry, and his illustrious colleagues, would resign! Mark the end, therefore; when that learned Member closed a speech of consummate ability, by moving, that “it is the bounden duty of this House, well considering the pressure of the public burdens on all classes of the community, and especially on the agricultural classes, to pledge itself to obtain for a suffering people such a reduction of taxation as would afford them substantial relief,” the Minister, who had nothing less in his head than reduction to such an amount as would weigh one feather against the burden of agricultural misery, moved the “previous question” as a proof of his repugnance to the pledge. The whole tribe of Country Gentlemen complainants—the Gooch, Kkatehull, Lethbridge, Wodehouse, (he had spoken for reduction but the Thursday before), and Sumner, voted for the previous question—against retrenchment, against reduction of taxes, against relief to their tenantry from any source, but one, which we will do them the justice to say, never entered clearly into their contemplation—namely, an immense reduction, from that day unavoidable, of the rents of landed property.

It may be, as well to break in upon the course of time, for the sake of some attention to continuity of subject. February 18. Lord Londonderry introduced a discussion on agricultural distress, and exhibited powers of a different nature from those which had been exercised on the same question a few evenings before by Mr. Brougham. His Lordship here opened upon the House of Commons that battery the fire of which had been hitherto masked from public sight and hearing though it had already played with such fatal effect upon the morals of the Country Gentlemen. In the same breadth with which he announced to Parliament that there would be thenceforth a clear surplus of more than 5,000,000*l.* for a sinking fund, he proposed to borrow four millions from the Bank to form the materials of a loan to the parishes!—a clear surplus of five millions, with only four millions fished out of it as a loan! But this loan was to be for the directors of the poor rates, with counter-security upon the neighbouring estates. 1st, What was to hinder the landlords borrowing directly from individuals, if they wanted cash and had security to offer? 2d, What was to put it in the power of borrowers, who could neither pay tithes nor taxes this year, to pay both, and to repay a loan in addition, before twelve months had expired? Accordingly this wise and masterly project, which Lord Londonderry declared “was the very best expedient of relief, that he could offer,” just lived long enough to entrap a few selfish and shallow votes from Country Gentlemen. When attempted, it was happily incapable of being realized; and a few days after its announcement by the Minister as the *coup d'aure* of his own ingenuity and of his colleagues, it expired amidst universal ridicule and contempt. The next specimen of ministerial sympathy on this occasion, was a promise of remitting 1*s.* per

bushel from the malt tax, amounting to 1,400,000*l.* per annum, which *lives* in the revenue was to be made good by a reduction of the five per cents. to four. Some not very intelligible hints upon the necessity of modifying the old corn law brought the Minister to the close of a long speech, the rhetorical decoration of which can never be forgotten. One remark, however, is here worth mentioning. It was in this great speech that the same Minister, whose consistency in regard to the sinking fund we have just recorded, pronounced his famous dogma, to which we referred at the outset of the present article, “that if the whole mass of taxes were swept away, it would not relieve our distresses:” this, too, within five minutes of a warm and rather boastful congratulation to his hearers, on being able to relieve the country from the malt tax, amounting to about a million and a half! As the month of February embraces those discussions which may be held to have laid the groundwork of all the financial operations of the year, we advert to it with more minuteness than to any subsequent period.

On the 21st, Lord Althorp, in an able speech, moved a resolution that the amount of reduction proposed by Ministers, “was not sufficient to meet the justice of the case”—and the resolution was evaded by Mr. Robinson, with whom, of course, the country Gentlemen and the house agreed, that it would be better to put upon their journals a panegyric on the sinking fund, which ministers had since 1813 reduced to nothing, than on a reduction of taxes with which they never could be reasonably charged.

On the 25th Mr. Vansittart moved his resolution for reduction of the interest on the 5 per cents. which has since been effected, and, with whatever hardships to individuals, near a million and a half of public expenditure has thereby been saved; but in paying off the debt itself, we shall feel pretty sensible, from the slow operation of the sinking fund, that the principle has experienced an increase.

Feb. 28.—Mr. Calcraft moved the repeal of the salt tax, and was supported by 164 votes to 169. Among the minority were 49 county members; in the ministerial phalanx of 169, were 61 placemen; and among the 12 county members (one fourth only of those who had voted against the tax) were the noble brethren Messrs. Gooch and Wodehouse, fit representatives of the two counties in England most severely bowed down by the burdensome consequences of taxation.

April 29, and May 23.—On these two days Lord Londonderry furnished ample proof of the wisdom with which the schemes of Ministers had been digested, and of the consistency with which they were upheld. The former day was distinguished by his Lordship's speech, introductory to the resolution for granting a million of Exchequer bills towards enabling Government to turn pawnbroker for corn, when under 20*s.* per quarter. On the latter day, he was at once laughed out of the undertaking; but a case more memorable still was that which, after much circumlocution, he proposed on the same 29th of April, for committing 5 millions of military life-pensions into a fixed annuity of 2,800,000*l.* or 3,000,000*l.* for five-and-forty years. The plan as our readers may remember, was, that the above bargain should be sold to the monied interest; but the interest refused the favor. Ministers, therefore, having recently pledged themselves to take off near two millions of that mass of taxation which at the outset of the session they had proclaimed to be utterly irreducible, were forced to take this singular enterprise, in the name of the public, upon their own shoulders—to buy five millions per annum of life annuities from themselves; pay themselves for it with 2,800,000*l.* for 45 years, and to borrow from whoever would lend it to them the difference between these two sums in money. It was, indeed, recommended that the yearly 2,000,000*l.* of loan to be advanced, being really so much in detriment of the sinking fund, should be taken at once from the amount of the sinking fund, the Commissioners of that establishment executing the operations without expence or trouble, or at any risk of deception to the country. But this would not do; we pay one set of men for taking a sum of money out of the right pocket, and another set for



slipping the identical sum into the left pocket; and this we denominate the science of economy and finance.

With regard to an extensive class of subjects not yet touched upon in this review, though essentially of far higher importance than mere question as to the amount of income and expenditure, they cannot be entered upon at large in a newspaper, although they must not be dismissed without notice. In discussions which embrace the relative political interests and powers of the several branches of this common wealth, the session just elapsed has been by no means wanting. The exercise of the prerogative, in some of its most formidable aspects, and the form, spirit, and practice of the House of Commons, with the action and re-action of Crown and people upon it, have afforded matter for repeated and animating discussion, which both in their progress and in their immediate result have laid the foundation of deep and lasting, and we trust, beneficial consequences.

Never was the existence of a Royal prerogative more emphatically asserted than that, by the force, and, in our judgment by the abuse, of which, a brave and noble officer was expelled from his profession, and stripped of his entire property, without the grant of a trial, or so much as the imputation of a crime. Yet we will venture to affirm, never would the dormant existence or even the moderate use of that prerogative, have prepared the minds of the intelligent class of Englishmen for its abolition to the same degree in which they are at this moment resolved—either that officers shall be no longer slaves to the Crown, or no longer representatives of the people. The nation now sees in undisguised operation, the principle with which it has to contend—and will not be slow in resisting it.

In the same manner as one display of direct oppression has wrought this change of popular feeling with regard to a single prerogative, the general course of indifference to public opinion, the open and wholesale practice of corruption, and the merciless extravagance visible in the whole conduct of the Administration have produced such severe effects upon the comforts and enjoyments of the people of England, that a powerful conviction of the necessity of some universal reform prevades all orders and ranks of men, except those only (and in their inward consciences they are not exceptions) whom a reform would deprive of their daily bread. The House of Commons is naturally the last assemblage of Englishmen, which a sense of its own defects or vices can be expected to influence in favour of Parliamentary reform. Yet when we look back for four or five years, and consider the language which would then have been tolerated, and that which is now applauded by members of that house, who can deny that a change, amounting even to a revolution of sentiment on the question, has recently forced its way into the inmost recesses of society? Lord John Russell's motion for reform, on the 25th of April, was recommended, it is true, by novel and irresistible reasonings; but they found a prompt recipient in many an enlightened mind, or the motion would never have been supported by 175 of the most respectable men in Parliament, among whom was, on one hand, Mr. Wilberforce, and, on the other, the friends and connexions of the most powerful Borough patrons in the empire.

Looking to the sum of things, we can see that the nation has not been a loser. The Country Gentlemen, are, as they ought to be, disappointed; because they rested their hopes, not on their own public spirit, but on promises of protection from those whose extravagance and selfishness it was their bounden duty to discourage. With no chance of extrication from their difficulties but by means which will embrace the general interests of their countrymen, they are all likely, before the opening of another session, to exclaim with Sir Thomas Lethbridge to the Ministers—"You have deceived, and deserted, and made us all advocates for reform." We are not backward to agree with the farewell anticipation of that most efficient and valuable member of Parliament Mr. Home—that, before the close of another year, he will be able to obtain for the country, even through such untoward instruments, a remission of seven millions of taxes.—*Times, Friday, August 7.*

*Madrid, July 12.*—The news from the provinces is most satisfactory. At Cadix and other cities, when the revolt of the Guards became known, the most lively indignation was excited among the citizens. The militia took up arms, and swore to die in defence of the constitution. The 7th of July, marked at Madrid by the triumph of liberty, was also distinguished by important events in Andalusia. On that day the insurrection of the carabigeros, and a part of the province of Cordova, was terminated and punished. On the 9th of July the municipality of Madrid addressed an energetic representation to the King, on the necessity of appointing Ministers,—of punishing with severity the authors of the revolt,—to cashier the two battalions of the Guards which had capitulated,—and to confer the command of provinces solely on men devoted to the constitution. This address contains the following passages:—

"We are in time, Sire; but perhaps, it is the last time for remedying the evil. The means are simple, and once tried, the social edifice would be cemented on bases so solid, that neither the present generation, nor that which is to come after our last descendants, will see any more disturbances. The chief of all is, that your Majesty should convince yourself, that the real friends of your life and of your glory are the defenders of the fundamental law which guarantees both. Place yourself in good faith at the head of the cause of the country, and give public and private testimonies of being identified with it. In order to give the first proof that your Majesty has sincerely embraced that cause, nothing is so necessary as to appoint, in replacing the retired Ministers, men known to be illustrious, and to be devoted to the system, and endowed with an energy and an activity capable of re-animating the social body, now languid and weak through the bad faith of a great number, and through the indolence and intemperance of others. Your court, Sire, or rather your domestic circle, is composed (such is the public conviction) of permanent conspirators against liberty. The keeping near you a single one amongst them would deprive your Majesty of the confidence of your faithful Spaniards, and never more than now was it so necessary to the safety of the state and of your Majesty, that you should recover that confidence. An act, not less interesting, Sire, for the restoration of the public tranquillity and the security of all is the exemplary and prompt punishment of the traitors and perjured men that have shed the innocent blood of those whose only crime was remaining faithful to their sacred oaths. Despatch, Sire, the perfidious men who seek to lead astray your Royal mind by fantastic illusions, inspiring apprehensions that there exist, under the shadow of liberty, disorganizing and regicide projects, which no Spaniard would conceive, or ever has conceived. Be, Sire, the *first liberal* of the nation, and instead of apprehensions, you will only have reason to fear wicked men, but you will be adored by all virtuous men, who alone have the right to the glorious title of Liberals. Not ranged, Sire, in that class are the defamers of their fellow-citizens, or vicious men who abuse liberty. Not such persons are not comprised in the list of those who, it is pretended, are rendered odious to your Majesty. They are beings blinded by despotism, and who endeavour to render odious the best of causes. Let your Majesty be certain that no such persons are found at the moment of peril in the ranks of the brave men who defended liberty the day before yesterday. Do not disdain, therefore, Sire, to unite yourself to those who have proved they will defend you."

*New Zealanders.*—Extract of a letter from Mr. Kendall to the Rev. Dr. Waugh, Nov. 25, 1821:—"The longer I am among the New Zealanders the more I am convinced that they sprung originally either from Assyria or Egypt. The God Pan is universally acknowledged. The overflowing of the river Nile, and the fertility of the country in consequence, are evidently alluded to in their traditions; and I also think the argonautic expedition, Pan's crook, Pan's pipes, and Pan's office in making the earth fertile, are mentioned in their themes. Query—Are not the Malays and the whole of the South Sea Islanders Egyptians? Is not O Aina or Aina, the ancient Queen of Heaven?"

## New Work on India.

EXTRACTS FROM LIEUTENANT WHITE'S CONSIDERATIONS  
ON BRITISH INDIA, JUST PUBLISHED.

## Chapter VI.—On the Civil Government of India.—(Continued.)

*Remarks on the permanent settlement of the Revenue.—The prospects of writers adventuring to India.—Their allowance in the different branches of the service, and chance of returning to Europe with a fortune.*

It now remains to consider the arrangements framed for the management of the revenue of British India. In each presidency this is intrusted to a department designated the board of revenue, which consists of a president, generally a member of council, and three other members. This board corresponds direct with government, through the medium of a functionary denominated the secretary to the territorial department. Its functions consist in superintending the collection of the land revenue, and in determining the settlement of lands throughout each presidency. Independent of this, it manages the estates of landholders disqualified by sex, minority, or lunacy, and the education of such as are minors. It possesses also jurisdiction in appeals from the collectors respecting claims to pensions. It is obliged to keep regular records of its proceedings, and to report every important matter to the Governor-general in council for his sanction, previously to forming a final determination upon it. The members of the board are prohibited from trading, holding lands, or lending money to the landholders. Under the general superintendence of the board, the collection of the revenues is intrusted to a European collector in each district. His jurisdiction is the same as that of a judge and magistrate, and in general extends over a tract of country containing from 6 to 1,200,000 inhabitants. Thus, under the Bengal presidency, which contains about 50 districts, containing a population of 40,000,000, there are about 50 collectors to receive the revenue. His duty consists in collecting the land-tax, in regulating the management of the estates of landholders disqualified by sex, minority, or lunacy, and in providing for the education of such as are minors. He superintends the public embankments; an object of great moment in a country subject to inundation. He collects the tax on spirituous liquor:—He superintends the division of joint estates, and apportions the assessment on lands ordered to be sold by judicial courts in discharge of an arrear of revenue. He is intrusted with the payment of the pensions which, under the ancient government, had been granted to religious mendicants, or families in a state of decay. He likewise disburses the cash for the payment of the civil and military establishments within his district. A European assistant—a civil servant of the company—is appointed to aid him in these important functions. It is obvious that these extensive duties cannot be performed without the assistance of a great number of natives officers. Each district is divided into a certain number of departments, and the collection of the revenue in each intrusted to an individual, designated a tahseeldar, with a suitable proportion of subordinates. His authority and influence are similar to those of a darogah, in the judicial department. Independent of this, the collector is aided by natives, skilled in revenue-accounts, who are constantly attached to his person. Exercising such extensive influence over property, about the nature and localities of which he is in a great measure ignorant, the most upright and able public servant is obliged to depend a great deal upon the information of those around him. The influence which this confers upon individuals, operates in practice as a fertile source of corruption, and induces parties concerned to make large presents to his native officers. If they cannot influence the mind of their European superior, at least they will pretend to do so; which equally enriches them. Surrounded by these men, who are personally interested in every transaction, and to whom craft, dissimulation, and fraud are habitual, it is difficult to perceive the truth, where it is so much the interest to conceal it, and almost impossible to avoid the variety of snares which are laid for him. Under the Bengal presidency, in the provinces of Bengal proper, Behar, and Benares, the settlement of the revenue is permanent.

In the ceded and conquered provinces, comprising Allahabad, Agra, Rohilund, Cuttack, and other districts, with our recent acquisition of Ajmere, and territories on the Nerbuddah, the settlement of the revenue is temporary, and I believe generally consists in a triennial settlement. The management of the revenue in the ceded and conquered provinces, is intrusted to two commissioners, who possess functions similar to the board of revenue. In India, the revenue of the state has, under both the Hindoo and Musselman governments, been principally derived from the land. According to the Hindoo lawgiver, the sovereign could demand a sixth or fourth, or even a third of the produce. The Mahomedan commentators on the law were much more complaisant to the masters of mankind, and allowed them to exact a half of the produce—but this only applied to infidels; to the faithful the contribution was fixed at a fifth. In India, the practice of the Musselman rulers was conformable to their theory, and the land-tax, which was paid by nine-

tenths of their subjects, was generally half the produce. This must be regarded as the substantial cause of the general poverty of these fertile regions. In a country where half the produce was consumed by unproductive labourers, there could be no fund for the reproduction of wealth, and consequently no increase of national prosperity. The government swallowed up those resources, which, in a different state of society, are naturally employed in the encouragement of productive industry. Under the British government, the assessment was fixed upon nearly the same basis, and certainly the amount of revenue is not less than what was collected by their former rulers. In the provinces ceded by the Nabob of Oude in 1801, it is well known that a greater revenue has been realized than under his administration. From the able report of Sir Thomas Munro, it appears that a similar improvement had taken place in the revenue of the provinces of Malabar and Canara, since their annexation to our dominions. This may be accounted for, without supposing that any increased exaction has prevailed under our government; but the conclusion which I intend to draw from it is this, that nearly the same state of society and distribution of wealth prevails which existed under their former rulers. And hence the disappointment which was experienced at the opening of the trade to India, in finding that the poverty of the people created no demand for our manufactures, is easily explained. This singular distribution of property, which prevails in the East, has excited a great deal of discussion. I do not intend to embark in the zumeendaree controversy, about which I know very little,—nor have I conversed with any intelligent natives on the subject, who could communicate correct information; but I have casually inquired of the ryots,—Who was the proprietor of the soil? and was invariably told,—“the sovereign.” The arrangement which has been adopted by our government affords some countenance to this opinion.—It is true the zumeendar has been declared the proprietor of the soil; but the supreme authority still reserves to itself the right of disposing of his estate, in the event of any arrear of revenue. From the general tenour of Asiatic history, it is apparent that the zumeendar was only considered as a revenue-officer removable at the pleasure of the sovereign. In this situation, he was allowed a commission of 10 per cent. upon the revenue, and was authorized to keep up a considerable military force for the purpose of enforcing his collections. From the superior skill and minute knowledge of the resources of particular districts which individuals possessed, these offices had necessarily a tendency to become hereditary, and were generally continued in a particular family. This situation afforded favourable opportunities for increasing their wealth and influence; in their situation it was too natural to pervert their power to the gratification of their avarice. Thus, time and circumstances conspired to invest them with an authority which they did not possess from their official situation; and their power of exacting a greater share of the produce than they were legally entitled to, naturally increased. At the breaking up of the Mogul empire, and the assumption of the internal management of the country by our government, they had somewhat approximated to the condition of European landholders; and at this period it may be fairly conjectured that, instead of 10 per cent. they appropriated at least 50 per cent. of the produce to their own purposes. Such being the case, in a political point of view the government may have considered it expedient to regard them as proprietors; but the fact is undeniable that they were not so, in the European sense of the term. Like all despots, the Mahomedan monarchs considered themselves absolute masters of the property of their subjects: their public edicts announce this abstract right in the most imposing language. The descendants of a race of men who had gained their dominions by violence, these lofty pretensions perfectly accord with the history of conquest in every age. In practice this claim was so far modified, that a bare subsistence was allowed to the cultivators of the soil, who possessed a right of occupancy, and a liberal allowance to the zumeendar or collector. Independent of this, the remainder of the produce was considered as the property of the state. From the general tone of conversation amongst the natives of India, unconnected with the zumeendars or ryots, it has always struck me that the people were habitually impressed with the opinion that the sovereign was the proprietor of the soil. In their daily language, they familiarly talk of the English government in this light. This belief in the proprietor's right of the sovereign, it appears to me, may be easily reconciled with the opinions of Colonel Wilkes, Sir Thomas Munro, Mr. Tytler, and others, who contend that it exists in the ryot. To the monarch of India it must have been a matter of perfect indifference who occupied the land, provided the demands of the state were satisfied. It was his interest that the soil should be cultivated to the utmost, and that every facility should be afforded to the ryot in bringing waste lands into a state of tillage. This naturally required that the cultivator should be at liberty to dispose of his right of occupancy, if necessary to promote his interests. In these circumstances, if a ryot wished to give up the land which he possessed, with a view of engaging in some other occupation, there appears to have been no obstacle to his disposing of the right of occupancy. In such a state of society this was rarely worth much. The question, after all, is one of curiosity rather than of real utility. It is sufficiently evident that a distribution of



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property prevailed, entirely different from that which exists in Europe; and under which the rights of all were pretty well ascertained. In these circumstances, it was of little moment whether the sovereign, the zameendar, or the ryot was styled the proprietor. Under the British government the zameendar has been declared the proprietor, with a full power to alienate his property. The rights of the ryots remain nearly unaltered. At first an obligation was required that a regular lease should be given by them to their tenantry; but this has not been enforced. The cause which led to the permanent settlement of the revenue was evidently a wish to relieve the inhabitants of these regions from the dreadful uncertainty, perplexity, and vexation which results from an annual settlement of accounts. It was confidently expected that this arrangement would lead to a great extension of cultivation. The innovation which recognized the zameendar as a proprietor, was too evidently influenced by our European ideas of property; but the change which it effected was less in reality than in name. It now remains to consider the effects of the permanent settlement upon the wealth and happiness of the country.

On the first introduction of this system in 1790, its operation was attended with a great increase of misery. The assessment was fixed too high, which necessarily led to the sale of the estates of the zameendars who had fallen into an arrear of revenue; and thus a transfer of property took place, which deprived some portion of the ancient families of that rank and influence which they maintained in society, and reduced them to beggary. The difficulty of proceeding against their tenantry with a view to recover balances of revenue, from the delay attending a civil action in our courts, was likewise felt as an intolerable evil. But, in the course of time, these disorders appear to have been rectified. A more enlarged experience enabled the revenue officers to fix the assessment more correctly; and a summary process was adopted in disputes between the zameendar and the ryot, which enabled the former to recover his balances. At first the zameendar derived no advantage for the permanent settlement, as, under this arrangement, he was prohibited from demanding any increase of rent from the ryots. In these circumstances it was foolish to expect that he should take any interest in improvement. At present this prohibition no longer operates. In the event of any increase of produce or improvement in the soil, the zameendar is allowed to derive a fair advantage from it, by increasing the rent. In a short time, the prodigious advantage which resulted from the permanent settlement, as compared with the annual arrangement and arbitrary exactions which prevailed under the Mahomedan government, began to be perceptible. About ten years after its introduction, the collectors of districts were called upon by Lord Wellesley to report upon the effects of this measure. If their information is to be relied upon, a visible improvement had taken place in the circumstances of the landholders, and a considerable extension of agriculture, accompanied with a marked diminution in the quantity of lands exposed to sale for arrears of revenue. It is to be regretted that no authentic information is to be obtained respecting the precise operation of the principal measures of our government. In India, all official reports on this subject are deposited in the archives of government, and never communicated to the public. Their contents are only known to a few heads in office; and thus many of the civil servants are deprived of the benefit which might be derived from them. In England little has been communicated since the publication of the valuable information contained in the Fifth Report.

From the casual conversations which I have had with natives, with no direct view to obtain information respecting this measure, it appears to me, that they generally entertain the opinion that the interests of the zameendars have been greatly improved by this arrangement, and that they had generally become wealthy. Even in India some communications have appeared in the journals expressing the great advantages which the zameendars have derived from this settlement; and indirectly reflecting upon the impolicy of the government in throwing away this rich fund of revenue. From what I have heard and read upon this subject, it appears to me unquestionable that at least one order of men has benefited by this arrangement. Under the Mahomedan government, any improvement in the circumstances of the landholder necessarily led to an increased annual assessment. The interests of the ryots have not been ameliorated in the same proportion; but there is little foundation for supposing that they are deteriorated from what they were under their former rulers. As the contribution which the zameendar affords to the state is fixed, there can be no legal pretext for exacting more than the stipulated rent from his ryots, on the ground that an additional impost has been authorized by government. Under the Mahomedan government, it was customary with the zameendar to assess the ryots for any deficiency in the revenue which was caused by one of their number absconding. The removal of this oppressive grievance has conferred a substantial benefit upon this industrious class of the community. From the inspection of some of the *firmans* of Mahomedan emperors of India, it appears evident, that the Musselman ryots were prodigiously favoured in the arrangements which were made for the collection of the revenue. The assessment was fixed

at a tenth part of the produce, which was denominated *nahr*; whilst half produce was exacted from the Hindoos. This mortifying inequality has been removed, and both classes placed exactly upon the same footing. Independent of this, the condition of the ryots has been improved, by the powerful stimulus which has been given to the productive industry of the country, by the increased cultivation of indigo and cotton, created by the demands of European commerce. At the present day, the European manufacturer of indigo contracts immediately with the ryot for the cultivation of this plant, and voids all connexion with the zameendar. Where many of these individuals are scattered throughout a district, the effect is visible in the increased value of the lands, and consequent prosperity of the people. The existing restrictions which prevent Europeans from holding lands, oblige them to employ natives in the cultivation of this plant. That the extensive power and influence which the zameendar possesses, too often enables him to oppress the ryot, is unquestionable; but, in this unfortunate state, it is some consolation to reflect, that the weaker party is likely to possess the earnest sympathy of the European magistrate, which will necessarily lead to corresponding exertions in his behalf. It is to be regretted that the salutary provision which required that every zameendar shall grant a written lease to the ryot, has not been enforced. It is obvious that this would oppose a powerful check to extortion on the part of the landholder; and the existence of this document would prove essentially useful in determining the numerous law-suits which arise between the proprietor and his tenant. Surely it would be easy for the government to keep a register of these leases in each district; or to reject, in our courts, the suits of the zameendars who had neglected to grant them.

It is difficult for an individual, unconnected with the civil administration, to ascertain whether any marked increase in the cultivation has taken place. But whoever has travelled throughout the provinces where the permanent settlement prevails, must have been struck with the fertile and extensive cultivation which the general face of the country exhibited. There are many tracts in the districts of Benares, Ghazepoor, Shahabad, and Sarun, which present the appearance of a rich garden, and where the prosperity of the country is apparent in the general appearance of the inhabitants. The same may be said of Purneah, Bardwan, &c. in Bengal, and many parts of Rohilcond, and the Doab Upper India. Throughout the provinces, the density of the population forces itself upon the notice of the most careless spectator; and the numerous flocks and herds of cattle attest the existence of a considerable portion of wealth. As compared with the cultivation in the King of Oude's dominions, it has always struck me that there was a marked superiority in the appearance of the British territory. At the same time, it is but fair to state, that I have beheld small independent states, governed by Hindoo rajahs, where the general cultivation appeared superior to that of the Company's provinces; and where the independent air of the peasantry announced a greater security of rights. In the year 1810, when a large force marched beyond the British territories in the direction of Saugor and Seronge, with the view of preventing the establishment of Meer Khan in these principalities, the division halted for nearly two months within the dominion of the Rajah of Tihree, the flourishing appearance of which excited the admiration of the whole army. This is perhaps to be accounted for by the smallness of the territory, which afforded great facility to an active ruler in the correction of abuses. That happy exemption from the inroads of the predatory powers, which the principal British provinces have enjoyed for nearly 60 years, must be regarded as the main cause of their prosperity; but unquestionably the permanent settlement of the revenue has powerfully co-operated in producing this effect.

It is remarkable that the rebellions which have lately disturbed the tranquillity of India were confined to the provinces of Rohilcond and Cuttack, into which this arrangement has not been extended. No information has been given to the public respecting the cause of this delay. It is now nearly 20 years since these provinces, with the other ceded and conquered districts, came into our possession; and it is generally understood that some promise was held out to the landholders of obtaining a permanent settlement. If this was ever given it has not been fulfilled; which induces the supposition that the government has repented of this magnificent act of bounty, by which it spontaneously gave up the right of the state to an increased revenue, in the event of any extension of agriculture which augmented the annual produce. There may exist solid reasons that a permanent settlement should not be granted to the landholders of these provinces. If no promise has been made on the part of government, the question still remains open for consideration. In pledging the faith of the state that no increased demand shall be made upon the landholder, the danger consists in the probability that, at some future emergency involving a heavy expenditure, the government might be tempted to break its engagements, and thus its character would be stained in the eyes of its subjects. The habitual disposition of every government to spend whatever it receives, renders this event but too probable. In India, where the revenues of the state have been principally derived from the land, any attempt to tax the people in another way would encounter a powerful opposition, from the inveterate attachment of the

people to their ancient habits and usages. Even in cases where this taxation is intended for their own benefit, they will not submit to it. In the year 1820, or 1811, the government attempted to establish a house-tax in the city of Benares, for the purpose of maintaining an efficient police. It was never contemplated that the state should derive any revenue from this assessment: it was imposed with the view of checking the extensive depredation on the property of the citizens, and the tax was limited to the amount necessary to effect this purpose. But this innovation was received with marked disapprobation; and public opinion was manifested in opposition to it in a singular way.—The immense population of these celebrated shrines of Hindunism left their homes in one mass, and betook themselves to the fields, declaring that they would not return to their houses until this tax was repealed. The government was compelled to give way, and to indulge the citizens in their wish, that the fraternity of thieves might exercise their vocation with their usual freedom. The powerful check which is opposed to taxation under the most despotic government, by the force of public opinion, is illustrated in a very lively manner by the celebrated Montesquieu:—*C'est une erreur de croire qu'il y ait dans le monde une autorité humaine à tous les égards despotique; il n'y en a jamais eu, et il n'y en aura jamais; le pouvoir le plus immense est toujours borné par quelque coin. Que le grand seigneur mette un nouvel impôt à Constantinople, un cri général lui fait d'abord trouver des limites qu'il n'avoit pas connues. Un roi de Perse peut bien contraindre un fils de tuer son père ou un père de tuer son fils; mais obliger ses sujets de boire du vin, il ne peut pas. Il y a dans chaque nation un esprit général, sur lequel la puissance même est fondée; quand elle choque cet esprit, elle se choque elle-même, et elle s'arrête nécessairement.*—*Grandeur et Décadence des Romains, Chap. 22.* A just sense of the difficulty which it might encounter in imposing any new tax, and a regard to its own honour, may have determined the government to give up the idea of extending the permanent settlement throughout their territory. But allowing every weight to these considerations, a regard to future improvement, and the welfare of their subjects, ought to induce them to give, at the least, a settlement of 10 or 15 years to the landholders, instead of the triennial arrangement which now exists. It is hard to be obliged to give up the fair prospect of improvement which the introduction of the permanent settlement afforded, by its tendency to create a wealthy and intelligent middle class of proprietors, so essential to the welfare of society, and which does not exist in India—but it is consolatory to reflect that this arrangement prevails in the most valuable of our provinces. If the government still perseveres in the design of rendering it general, the effects of this arrangement upon the political destiny of British India must form a curious speculation. The experience of history leads to the certain conclusion, that the executive will expend more than its revenue, and will be compelled to relieve its necessities, either by violating its engagements in regard to the permanent settlement, or by introducing new modes of indirect taxation, which may shock public opinion and endanger its dominion.—Or, lastly, it may adopt the more rational and equitable measure of calling upon the zameendars to contribute towards the increased expenses of the state. This may naturally lead to the convocation of provincial assemblies, and thus a more perfect order of society might gradually be established. The rise of the English House of Commons was certainly not more dignified in its origin, being called into existence by the pecuniary wants of the sovereign. The adoption of the permanent settlement as a measure of revenue, according to Mr. Mill, has been equally productive of distress and misery as the judicial arrangements of British India. In the first stage of its introduction there appears some ground for this opinion; but, if tried by the result, after an experiment of ten years' duration, the conclusion ought to be widely different, if the evidence of the collectors of revenue during Lord Wellesley's administration can be depended upon. The thing is so obvious to common sense, that a permanent lease is better than a temporary one, and the measure itself was calculated to lead to so much benefit, that it is surprising Mr. Mill has not more to say in favour of it. It is incumbent on a writer, who aims at impartiality, to point out the merits as well as the defects of existing institutions, otherwise he lays himself open to the charge of being too much disposed to gratify his intellectual superiority, by indulging in the pleasure of censure. In the arduous task of government, it is but just that men should receive some encouragement in their well-meant endeavours to ameliorate the condition of society; and it was perfectly competent to a writer of his powers to bestow it.

The statements and opinions which are given in his celebrated chapter on the judicial and revenue establishments of British India, are principally founded on the evidence of the civil servants of the company. If their testimony is esteemed good, when it tends to expose the defects of this system, with him at least it ought to be regarded equally valid, when they unequivocally testify as to the beneficial effects which have resulted from the adoption of the permanent settlement. Such being the case, his conclusion as to the inefficacy of this arrangement, as a means of improvement ought to fall to the ground, if the official returns during Lord Wellesley's government (and I believe similar reports under the present administration) can be relied upon. Mr.

Mill has declared his opinion, that the British Government has lost the noblest opportunity of ameliorating the condition of the lower orders of society in India, by availing itself of its power, to establish the ryots as proprietors of the soil. This change would unquestionably have conferred a great advantage upon the great body of the cultivators, by rescuing them from the exactions of the zameendars; and by its tendency to create an increased activity and industry, which the certainty of reaping the entire fruits of their labour would necessarily call forth. Independent of this, the possession of property would improve the character of the people, and raise them from their present abasement by the increased security and consequent independence which it confers. At present, it may be fairly conjectured, that the share of the produce which the state demands from the cultivator is increased one-half in the amount by the intermediate agency of the zameendars and sub-renters of land. Any plan which was calculated to relieve the ryot from this tax upon his labour would certainly be a great step in improvement. But, admitting all its advantages, the innovation which Mr. Mill proposes, appears much too rapid in its nature, and pregnant with great injustice to one class of men, the zameendars, jagheers, and others, who would be deprived of the fair advantages which they had attained in society. From general evidence, it is sufficiently apparent, that throughout our provinces this body had acquired a degree of wealth, power, and influence, which was unwarranted by their official situation; but which, being sanctioned by time and prescription, it was certainly incumbent upon a legislator to respect. From the learned dissertation on the tenure of landed property of Umceer Hyder Belgramer, mooftee to the Sadr Nizamut Udaulat in Calcutta, it is evident that a right of disposing of their property was enjoyed by individuals to whom grants of lands had been made by the sovereign:—If the king bestows on any one mowat (or waste land), that person becomes the proprietor, although he be not of the description of uhl mousarif, which character will presently be described. No person hath power to dispossess the cultivator of such mowat lands, it being lawful to sell it, to appropriate it to religious uses, and to dispose of it as an inheritance.—"It is lawful for the king to grant arable land to any person as an akta (or jagher), but he will only be proprietor of the profit; and therefore he has power to give such land in farm to another, but not to sell, appropriate to religious uses, or to bequeath it."

Such being the case, with what regard to justice could we despoil these men of their rights? No extended views of improvement could justify so cruel an invasion of property. However intended to benefit the mass of our population in India, an innovation of the nature proposed would in all probability fail, from the violent shock which it would give to established opinions. Mankind are naturally disposed to revere existing institutions; and to respect the prescriptive rights of their superiors. In India, the greater portion of the zameendars are Hindoos, the representatives of ancient families, familiarly known among the people by the title of rajah; and to whom they have been accustomed to look up with awe. With these feelings, they must regard a measure of this kind as an act of tyrannical oppression. Exercising a hereditary influence over their minds, it would be easy for the zameendars to persuade the people that the blow was aimed at them through their interests;—and thus the stability of our empire would be endangered. The authority which a popular zameendar possesses over the people, has been practically displayed under the present administration. In the year 1817, Jagbhund o, one of the principal landholders of the province of Cuttack, erected the standard of rebellion, and thousands of ryots arrayed themselves under his banner. In its first introduction, this innovation would operate like an Agrarian law, by creating an equal partition of the soil or produce; and thus the natural order of things would be reversed, which invariably tends to produce inequality of property, wherever there exists a free scope for the exertion of human industry. The entire dislocation of the frame of society would necessarily be the result. The minute subdivision of property, which the operation of this system would tend to create, is opposed to the first principles of political economy, which teach us, that, where it prevails, it is impossible to accumulate capital for the purpose of improvement. Under this arrangement, it would be difficult to collect the revenue without an enormous increase in the expense. At present, where one individual pays direct to government a lac of rupees, under the operation of Mr. Mill's system it would be necessary to collect the same sum from perhaps a thousand individuals, which would increase the duties of the revenue department in an incalculable degree; at least six collectors would be required where one performs the duty under the existing arrangements. In the small but exceedingly

\* Mr. Mill has too great a regard for justice to propose this innovation, without suggesting that the sacrifices of the zameendars should be compensated. But is this possible? A measure which alters the entire frame of society cannot be regulated in the same way as an ordinary turnpike bill. What substitution can you propose for that line of power so natural to man in every state of society, and which these men are cut off from exercising by this sudden change?



fertile district of Burdwan, which yields a yearly revenue of 600,000 pounds, the greater part of this sum is collected from one zameendar, a Hindoo rajah, who farms the lands to others; under the operation of Mr Mill's system, it could only be realized by increasing the number of European collectors. From the evidence of the Fifth Report, it is apparent that our finances will not admit of any increase in their number; at least such was the opinion of a committee of the House of Commons in 1812. Mr. Mill will contend that General Sir Thomas Munro was able to effect the settlement of the provinces of Malabar and Canara, and to collect the revenue without the intervention of zameendars. This must be admitted; but, in doing so, he did not innovate. The fiscal system of the Moghul Government had never extended to these provinces; and therefore he acted wisely in abstaining from shocking public opinion by its hasty introduction. At the period when this settlement was formed, the revenue was collected direct from the ryots: since then the Madras Government has altered this arrangement, and adopted a system by which it realizes the collections through the agency of the head men of villages, which is certainly an approximation to the zameendare or farming system. In such a state of society, where the influence of zameendars on a large scale is unknown, it is obvious that the innovation which Mr. Mill proposes could be introduced with perfect safety. In these provinces it would be no change. General Sir Thomas Munro and Colonel Wilkes have proved, by irresistible evidence, that in these districts the ancient Hindoo Institutions prevailed—that the sovereign collected the annual assessment directly from the cultivator, without the intermediate agency of zameendars; and that the ryots possessed a property in the soil, sufficiently manifested by daily sales of their lands. This is easily accounted for by the fact, that, until the invasion of these provinces by Tippon, they had maintained their independence against the Musselman arms; and that thus the Mahomedan institutions had no time to take root in the country. But, allowing that the state of society in these provinces is favourable to the innovation which Mr. Mill proposes, it is unphilosophical to infer, from this admitted fact, that the change which he contemplates could be introduced with equal facility into the numerous provinces under our sway, where the Mahomedan institutions have prevailed for six or seven centuries, and which have, consequently, produced a state of society materially different. An error like this might have been expected from a practical statesman, who had formed a hasty generalization from a limited observation of facts; but could not have been looked for in a person profoundly skilled in the inductive philosophy. It is sufficiently evident from history, that, on the invasion of India by the Moghuls, the ancient Hindoo princes, and their descendants, became, in many instances, the zameendars of the districts which they formerly governed; and that the jagheerders and others, to whom grants of land had been made by the sovereign, possessed a right of disposing of the advantages which they derived from this grant. If the successive bands of ferocious adventurers who invaded these provinces respected their rights, ought not an enlightened English philosopher to pause before he hastily proposes a measure which might tend to their wanton violation? He may be perfectly convinced of the truth of his abstract principles, and may feel a natural wish to remodel society into conformity with them; but is there not great cruelty and injustice in this, when the public mind is not prepared for their reception, and when a salutary reformation can only be accomplished by the violation of the cherished habits and usages of the people? It is fortunate for Mr. Mill that he has been enabled to enact the philosopher in real life; and that, living in retirement, he has had nothing else to do but to sit in judgment upon the conduct of our Asiatic statesmen. If he had possessed power in India, and applied his principles in practice, it is obvious that they would have created a great derangement in society. The complaints of the oppressed zameendars and jagheerders would reach the ear of the commons. Like another Hastings, he would be recalled and arraigned before their tribunal. The Whigs would let loose Mr. Brougham or Mr. Bennet upon him. Mr. Hume would enact the part of Sir Philip Francis;—the friends of administration would take a warm interest in the cause;—the placemen, the pensioners, and the clergy would feel that there was some analogy between their vested rights and those of the zameendars; and thus, in all probability, Mr. Mill would have perished a martyr to his love of abstract political justice, and the world would have lost his admirable exposition of Asiatic misgovernment.

It appears to me that the innovation which he contemplates could be introduced, and its advantages realized, without any violent shock to public opinion, by adopting a system more gradual in its operation. Thus, it is very well known that a number of the estates of zameendars are sold annually, who have fallen into an arrear of revenue. This being the case, it would be easy to divide them into small portions, and dispose of them directly to the ryots, if they were disposed to purchase. If this system had been followed since the introduction of the permanent settlement in 1791, it is more than probable that half the landed property in India would have been in their hands. The objection will be—the difficulty of collecting the revenue with the limited number of public functionaries who can be afforded for this purpose, in the existing state of the finances. This must be admitted; but the admirable work of Mr. Craw-

ford, on the Indian Archipelago, has shown us, that, in nearly a similar state of society in the island of Java, the government has always collected the revenue directly from the cultivators, without the intervention of zameendars under the superintendence of European collectors. Perhaps some minute information might be obtained respecting the details of this system, which might simplify the practice in Bengal, and render the collection of the revenue, under this arrangement, less expensive than is predicted. Mr. Mill appears to me to have fallen into an error in his opinion as to the inefficiency of large salaries in preventing the corruption of the civil servants of the company. The character of these public functionaries must principally depend upon the general tone of morality in the mother country. If the conduct of the middle and upper classes of English society is influenced by a regard to honour and fair dealing, in the ordinary transactions of life, it is but fair to presume that the same qualities are exemplified in the conduct of their countrymen in the East. But it is obvious that high salaries must be given, in order to attract a certain portion of talent and probity into this service. Who would abandon his native country, encounter the vicissitudes of climate, devote himself to the intense study of languages, in order to qualify himself for discharging the laborious functions of a judge, and occupy himself eight or ten hours daily for 25 or 30 years, in the tedious drudgery of hearing causes, who was only certain of a moderate subsistence? Unquestionably many respectable men would be found in England, who would undertake this arduous duty for £700 or £800 per annum; but, admitting their honesty, the probability is, that they would be uneducated men—unskilled in the languages, and consequently, unequal to the task which they had undertaken. At an advanced age it would be difficult to acquire a knowledge of the languages. But, to come to the point, if we suppose the Indian judge to be corrupt, it appears to me, in opposition to Mr. Mill, that large salaries have a tendency to prevent venality.

The man who sells justice will argue thus, in the event of a bribe being offered to him:—It is true I may gain so much by accepting this sum; but, on the other hand, I must run the risk of discovery, which will deprive me of the emoluments of office. Thus it becomes a calculation of opposite interests: and hence the conclusion is obvious, that, in proportion as the salary is high, the motive is stronger which impels the mercenary judge to discharge his duty. Independent of this, as he is not stimulated by want to dishonesty, the temptation is obviously diminished. The salary of a judge and magistrate of a district in Bengal, is 28,000r. yearly, or £3,500 per annum. This important trust is seldom obtained under less than 12 years' service. In an extensive service there are no doubt in this, as in every other, many indolent persons who earn this sum very easily; but if a judge really does the duty, it does not appear to me that he is overpaid, as compared with the salary which is allowed to similar functionaries in England. But, at the same time, if well-educated persons can be trained for this service, with the prospect of less emolument held out to them, an unquestionable benefit would be conferred upon British India, by the facility which it would afford of employing a greater number of individuals in the administration of justice. The civil service of British India presents a noble field for youthful ambition, in which every intellectual energy may be exercised; and in which fewer obstacles are opposed to the rise of talent to its proper level than exist in any profession or service. This is in a great measure to be ascribed to the necessity which exists that the principal offices of government should be filled by men of ability; and by the facility which the government possesses of ascertaining the individual merits of its servants, by the examinations at the colleges of Hertford and Calcutta. Any individual who has distinguished himself at these institutions, is certain of filling the first appointments in the service. The splendid opening which is presented to individual enterprise, does not so much arise from any marked disposition in the government to patronize merit, as from the number of lucrative appointments which can be attained in the due course of the service through seniority, by every individual possessed of ordinary talents. Every civil servant is certain of becoming a judge, a collector, or a commercial resident, after a certain period of service, with a salary little inferior to that which is granted to the appointments in the secretariat and diplomatic line, which require a greater portion of ability. This being the case, he makes no interest to obtain these situations; and they are left to be filled by those who feel competent to the discharge of their duties. It is quite different with the military branch of the service, in which the possession of a staff appointment doubles, triples, or quadruples the ordinary allowances of its possessor: This rouses the self-love of every one, and induces the generality of men to put every spring in motion, either in England or India, which will enable them to obtain these situations. The weight of parliamentary interest is felt as powerfully in Bengal as in the neighbourhood of the treasury. As the government cannot be expected to know the individual merits of its numerous military officers, and is seldom obliged to respect public opinion in the nomination to particular appointments, except in the case of men who have eminently distinguished themselves by their gallantry in the field, and in some instances, by a regard to seniority in some offices connected with the general administration of the army,—at least nine-tenths of the staff situa-

tions in the service are bestowed upon those individuals who possess the strongest interest. In the civil service of India, the principle of selection is combined with that of seniority. All individuals of a certain standing are eligible to hold a certain appointment, but it rests with the government to nominate the person to fill it from amongst these qualified persons. Unless in circumstances where great ability is required, a regard to seniority generally prevails in practice.

Let us view the career of a young writer after leaving College.—He is at liberty to select the judicial, the revenue, the diplomatic, or the commercial line. By a regulation enacted during Lord Wellesley's government, he was obliged to confine himself to that branch of the service which he had selected. But, since then, it has been found advantageous that talent should range unrestricted from one branch of the service to another; and, in practice, I believe this regulation is not strictly followed, or has been repealed. If he prefers the judicial line, he becomes an assistant to a judge and magistrate, with a salary of 400*r.* or £50 per mensem. In the course of two or three years he becomes a register to a district or circuit court, with a salary of 6 or 700*r.* per month. After serving three or four years in this capacity, he may be nominated joint judge and magistrate of a district, with a salary of 12 or 1400*r.* per month. But this appointment only exists in a few extensive districts, and must be regarded as accidental in the career of the judicial servant. In the general course of the service he discharges the duties of a register for five or six years, and then rises to the important charge of judge and magistrate of a district with a yearly salary of 28,000*r.* or £3,500 per annum.\* The writers who entered the service in 1806, attained this station in less than 12 years. After remaining six or seven years in this situation, the judge and magistrate of a district becomes a judge of circuit, with a salary varying from 35 to 45,000 rupees per annum. Remaining six or eight years in this grade, if a man of talents, he may then be selected to fill the exalted station of judge in the supreme court of civil and criminal jurisdiction, designated the *Sudder Dewan*, with a salary varying from 60, to 70,000 rupees per annum. But this splendid prize can only be attained by a few;—this court being composed of only three members. Independent of this, the noble appointment of member-in-council is open to this branch of the service, with a monthly salary of 10,000 rupees, or £15,000 per annum. The judicial branch of the service affords a noble prospect of utility to those who wish to benefit their fellow-creatures, and regard power as solely intrusted to them for the good of others. The judge and magistrate of a district is in reality the governor of a province, whose personal character and conscientious discharge of his duty exercise a powerful influence in regulating the happiness or misery of perhaps a million of human beings. The judicial branch of the service demands very extensive qualifications—an intimate knowledge of the languages, manners, and religious prejudices of the natives, with indefatigable industry, and a habit of mind accustomed to weigh evidence, and balance opposing probabilities. But perhaps a greater portion of talent is attracted to the diplomatic or political line, from the extensive field which is afforded for its display in the eyes of the Anglo-Indian public.—its greater patronage,—and the less onerous nature of its duties. In this branch of the service, the juvenile diplomatist commences his career as an assistant in the office of one of the secretaries to government, or is appointed to aid the resident at one of the native courts, with a salary of 6 or 800 rupees per month. In proportion to his length of service in this situation, his salary increases; and in the course of 12 or 14 years, he attains the elevated station of secretary to government, in a particular department, or becomes the representative of the British state at a native court. In the latter station, at the principal native courts, he enjoys the princely salary of 8000 rupees, or £1000 per month. The residents at the courts of Delhi, Lucknow, Hyderabad, and Nagpoor, are indubitably very great personages;—in these dependent states, where the degree of political control which they may exercise is not very well defined, it must be easy for any one to enact the monarch, who feels the inclination.

A writer in the 31st number of the *Edinburgh Review*, in a very ingenious speculation on the affairs of India, has gravely suggested the propriety of constituting one of the royal family Emperor of Hindoostan, with hereditary succession. With all due deference to this authority, it appears to me that a better selection could be made from amongst the residents, who, from the superior practice which they have enjoyed in the regal vocation, may fairly be supposed, to be quite as fit in the knowledge of every kingly function. But, to return from this digression, it is obvious that the resident at a native court requires a minute knowledge of the history and politics of the different native states, and the language, manners, and customs of the people amongst whom he resides; and that, above all, he should possess that practical knowledge of human nature which would restrain him from pressing improvements which the mind of the native ruler or people was not prepared to receive. The appointment of member in council is open to this, as well as every other branch of the service. In the revenue department, the young civilian commences by becoming assistant to a collector, with a monthly salary of 400 rupees; and, in the course of 10 or 12 years, attains a collectorship. From this situation he may rise to become a commissioner or member of

the board of revenue. The duties of the revenue department are much less burthensome than those of the judicial branch of the service, which has necessarily led to a less ample remuneration. In Bengal proper, a collector of revenue does not receive more than 18 or 20,000 rupees per annum; in the upper provinces, where the permanent settlement has not been introduced, and where his duties are consequently of a more onerous nature, he receives 30,000 rupees per annum. In the commercial branch of the service, the writer becomes an assistant to a commercial resident, a salt or opium agent, or obtains an appointment in the departments of customs, with a salary varying from 600 to 1000 rupees per month. In the course of 12 or 14 years, he may become a commercial resident with a salary of 25,000 or 30,000 rupees per annum,—or a salt or opium agent, with 4 or 5000 rupees monthly salary. It is fortunate that there are few of these lucrative appointments, which might otherwise tempt individuals to desert the more arduous and useful branches of the service—the judicial and the revenue. From this situation, the commercial servant may become a member of the board of trade, customs, and opium, and may ultimately attain the elevated station of member of council. The commercial line holds out a great attraction to indolent persons, from the little employment which it affords. Independent of this, as it is the only branch of the service in which individuals are allowed to trade, it affords a noble field to the active and enterprising individual who possesses capital, and inclination to increase it by commerce. Thus it is apparent, that the most splendid prizes can be attained by the display of superior ability and industry, and that every civil servant of the Company is certain of a rich provision if possessed of ordinary or even inferior capacity. But, independent of this, if the civil servant of India has manifested any extraordinary portion of talent, it is evident that the noblest gifts in the disposal of the crown may be conferred upon him; as exemplified in the elevation of Mr. Hastings and Lord Teignmouth to the general government of India; and that of Mr. Duncan, Sir George Barlow, and Mr. Elphinstone to that of the subordinate presidencies.

With all these advantages, it is surprising that so few individuals are enabled to retire from this service. Out of 400 civilians employed in the Bengal establishment, I should doubt if more than six or eight return to Europe annually, for the purpose of resigning. The fortunes which they accumulate vary from 30 to 50,000 pounds. Perhaps one individual may retire every two or three years with 100 or 120,000 pounds. The length of their service in India varies from 25 to 40 years; and is rarely less than the first-mentioned period. The average must be about 30 years. The causes of this must be sought in the expensive manner of living which prevails in India,—the facility which a liberal provision affords of marrying early,—and the expense of transporting children to Europe, and providing for their education and settlement in the world. The style of living is unsaviable from the habits and manners of the country,—the restrictions of cast, &c. which impose the necessity of keeping many servants,—the excessive heat of the climate, which renders life unendurable to a European, without the aid of carriages, horses, palanquins, &c.—the high prices of European articles, such as beer, cheeses, hams, &c. which in many instances are 200 or 300 per cent. above the prime cost. But perhaps the principal cause that fortunes are not more generally accumulated, is to be found in the astonishing facility that the young and dashing writer possesses of running into debt, and which it requires all his subsequent savings to redeem. The credit which he progresses with Europeans and natives is beyond belief. It is too much to expect that a youth emancipated from all restraints should be able to resist the opportunity thus afforded of gratifying his love of pleasure. In these circumstances, it is not unusual to see a writer leaving college, saddled with a debt of half a lac of rupees, or 6 or 7000 pounds. The young man who is inclined to live within his income, feels it difficult to resist the contagion of example, and must esteem himself fortunate if his college bills do not exceed 5 or 10,000 rupees. In truth, the Bengal civilian generally spends a fortune before he acquires one. The heavy charges of interest swallow up all his savings, and render it difficult for him to shake off his incumbrances. Large sums of money are obtained from natives at an interest of 12 per cent.—The person who lends this entertains views of profit much beyond the legal advantage which he is entitled to for the use of his money. If the writer is nominated to some appointment, the lender insists upon being employed in some official situation, or that one of his relations should be provided for. If his request is refused, a sight of his bond will speedily enforce compliance. If he succeeds in introducing his relations into office, the pernicious effects of their influence upon the general happiness of the country are powerfully illustrated in the following extract from Mr. Tytler's work;—"Directed by their employer, the baboo or money lender, they intermeddle with all the official concerns of this master. By their falsehood and utter want of principle, they colour the cases which come before him; they quash the complaints of the more unfortunate natives who have not money to offer as a bribe; they promote the cause of injustice and defeat the purposes of benevolence; and, by receiving money (in the name of their young master) by whatever hands it is offered, they degrade the European character, pervert the law, and contaminate the source of public justice."—Vol. I. p. 37.

\* The rupee is usually estimated at 2*s.* 6*d.*



# ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—377—

## A Poem.

### DESCRIPTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN MODE OF HUNTING THE WILD BOAR IN INDIA.

"What though the gripe severe  
Of bruen fated time, and slow disease  
Creeping through every vein and nerve unstrung  
Afflict my shatter'd frame, undaunted still,  
Fix'd as a mountain ash, that braves the bolts  
Of angry Jove, though blasted, yet unfallen;  
Still can my soul in fancy's mirror view  
Deeds glorious once, recall the joyous scenes  
In all its splendours decked, o'er the full bowl  
Recount my triumphs past, urge others on  
With hand and voice, and point the winding way,  
Pleased with that social sweet garrulity  
The poor disbanded veteran's sole delight!"

— Somerville's Chase, Book I.

Sing Sylvan Muse, the noblest chase, that erst  
The bravest youth of Caledon inspir'd  
To wake with hounds (1) and clarions deeper-toned  
The woodlands wild; when from the thicket burst,  
With mighty rash, the Caledonian boar, (2)  
And through the echoing vale forced his bold way,  
By many a lance of beaver'd knight (3) opposed,  
Not less for valour famed, than for the spear's  
Unerring aim renowned; forsoe the monster's head  
At Atalanta's feet now bleeding lies,  
Where Meleager kneels to kiss away  
The grateful (4) tears, that down her vermil cheeks,  
Steal from her pitying eyes;—so the soft dew-drops  
On a summers morn, forsake the blushing rose—  
Ere the faint blush upon Aurora's cheek  
Assumes a deeper glow, and birds with notes  
Exulting hail the dawn, quick let me lead  
You and your train, to where in thickest shades  
The tasky boar, of no less wonderous size  
Than that which in security erst reigned:  
Arcadia's Erimanthian (5) wooded vale,  
His lair then form'd. In yon uncultured waste,  
Where loftiest grass to the soft summer's breath  
Wave tremulous; in severed tufts detached,  
Their feathery plumes, and woodbines sweet and wild  
Embowering wreaths their pale festoons around  
The fragrant haubles' (6) tawny color'd buds,  
And other odoriferous shrubs, which with  
The flowerets that darkling bloom beneath,  
And unobserved, by Flora's artless hand  
In secret nursed, fling to the desert air  
Their lucious sweets.—Here may you find stretched out  
In his dark lair alone, the monarch boar,  
By nightly wanderings lull'd in sleep profound,

(1) Hounds are here alluded to, as they were formerly made use of, in the chase of the boar and wolf, and are to this-day in France and Germany; but no description of dogs are now, or indeed ought to be employed in the chase of the wild boar, at least in the mode of hunting introduced by the European gentlemen; as dogs invariably tend to prevent a boar's breaking cover, as well as that of retarding his flight when out of it, which should always be encouraged, as the harder the boar breaks away over the plain, the less capable he becomes of doing injury to his pursuers, when brought to bay.

(2) Sent by Diana to ravage the country, on account of the neglect-shewn to her divinity, by the King; all the Princes of the age were set on to hunt this boar, which was ultimately killed by Meleager, who gave the head to Atalanta, of whom he was enamoured.

(3) Thirty-four Princes were assembled to kill this boar.

(4) Atalanta herself first wounded this celebrated boar, but it nearly, and would indeed have, cost her life, if Meleager had not flown to her assistance.

(5) A mountain river and town of Arcadia, where Hercules killed a prodigious boar, which he carried on his shoulders to Erystræus, who was so terrified at the sight, that he hid himself in a brazen vessel.

(6) A variety of the acacia.

Unconscious of the storm that gathering high  
O'er the deep vale, bespeaks the coming blast  
And tumult of the fray, in mingling sounds  
Of boisterous preparation indistinct  
But should this grassy waste successful prove,  
Seek where the graceful and luxuriant cane  
With pliant arms supports the verdant jow (7)  
And woodland rose (8) with blossoms wan, and pale  
As cheek of love forsaken maid, now crowd  
With tangling shrubs, and ever rustling reeds  
Innumerable, the shelving bank of some  
Unbellow'd stream, that ever murmuring  
In its lingering course, steals through the vale  
In mazes wild, by pendent willows hid,  
On these lone banks the loveliest flowers are born,  
Which self enamour'd like Narcissus weep  
O'er the blue mirror of the crystal stream.  
And by their own reflected charms betray'd  
Blushing deluded kiss the passing wave,  
Here in unerring line together form  
Your towering train of stately elephants,  
With martial front; impenetrably safe  
From quick surprise of lion grim, or even  
The wily leopard tribe, or hardier still  
The bull (9) ferocious, on some summit bleak  
Of high Thibet produced, whose utmost peak,  
Heap'd in the ever cheerless waste (10) of snows  
Incessant braves the fierce and angry clouds.  
Nor less the elephant beware, that reves  
The mighty sovereign of his rude domain;  
Who when he meets, upon the sport intent,  
The wonder stricken field, devoid of fear,  
In firm defiance stands, and with disdain  
Surveys his humbled brethren richly clad  
In all the gorgeous trappings of the state,  
Their freedom gone, cringing obsequious slaves,  
In vilest shackles bound, prompt to obey  
The tyrant call of man; quick from his huge  
And independant front, his trembling (11) race  
Turn round abashed, and in dejection droop  
Their trumpet twisted trunks, which but a breath  
Before erected high in air, when proud  
They shook the welkin round, and made the air  
Repeat their cries; such the effects of shame,  
Which ever wounds a breast devoid of sense,  
When for the loss of Liberty it pines,  
Heaven's noblest gift, and once with pride held up  
The fearless boast of England's generous sons.—  
Now from your steed's (12) attendant on the field,

(7) A species of broom which usually grows in the dry and sandy Beds of Rivers, affording a cool and dark retreat for game of every description.

(8) Rosa Sylvestris, or Dog Rose.

(9) To be met with in the neighbourhood of Bootan, Thibet, and the Nepal mountains; this species of wild bull appears unknown to the naturalist, it is of prodigious fierceness, it is not described in Buffon.

(10) The stupendous height of parts of the snowy mountains when seen at a distance, are so considerably above the clouds, as to appear to the astonished beholder unconnected with our terrestrial sphere, and to derive their foundation from the clouds beneath them, and when the utmost top or peak of these snowy mountains catch the reflection of the rising or setting sun in the rainy season, no description could do justice to the brilliancy of the scene. They exhibit an ethereal world, studied with innumerable jewels of a greater variety of colors than is even displayed by the Kaleidoscopes.

(11) The great sagacity of the Elephant is too well known to need explanation here; in elucidation however of the subject here introduced, it may be necessary to mention that the Elephants in a domesticated state view their own species, when accident brings them together on a hunting excursion, with the greatest alarm and uneasiness, which the natives ascribe to shame at being found by their more independant brethren in a state of servitude and subjection.

(12) The Arab horses are found the best for this sport, and are not so easily intimidated as horses of less blood.

Select the most undaunted of his breed,  
To bear you firmly with unshaken nerve,  
Through the expected perils of the day;  
Let him as mountain stag be quick of foot,  
With eyes as keen as falcon towering  
High in the air, beyond the sight of men,  
Who by himself is seen; neither in strength  
Or courage should he yield to that famed beast  
That erst untamed the rude Nemean (13) waste  
Ranged uncontrolled. Now in your well form'd line  
Leave not a space through which might pass unseen  
The affright'd game, and with your deep ton'd horns  
And bugles loud, into the wild recess  
Of thickest woods bear your resistless course.—  
Not less than two, nor more than three, should urge  
Against a single boar the flying chase;  
For if the field this number should exceed,  
Danger (14) ensues, and worse confusion reigns,  
For see, regardless of restraint, yon Horse  
With spirit raised by the tumultuous scene,  
Headlong his nerveless Rider bears away,<sup>1</sup>  
With seat infirm, and spear at random held,  
Against his bold compeers; who, watchful grown,  
Of the hot foaming Boar's expected charge,  
Sees not from whence the threatened danger comes—  
Check now your Horse, nor onward press beyond  
The towering train of Elephants, as through  
The covert's deepest gloom jostling they toil,  
With ponderous steps, whilst overwhelmed and crushed,  
With crackling sounds, the woodland echo's filled  
And every thicket yields;—hark! from the crowd  
A general shout proclaims the monster roused;  
And in the ear of morn, as yet by sounds  
Of rural labour undisturbed, the noise  
And uproar swells; whilst echo's playful voice  
In mimic peals, tells forth the welcome tale,  
To distant hill, to vale, to rugged glen.  
And unfrequented lake; on whose soft breast  
The lessening tumult dies; but hold!—observe [woods  
Where yon tall palm (15) trees crown the neighbouring  
In thicker foliage clothed, sullen and black,  
With measured steps, a monstrous boar appears:  
Awhile he stops, in seeming doubt what course  
Would best elude his persevering foes;  
This, the most doubtful moment of success,  
Demands your utmost care; let silence reign,  
Lest from the wooded skirts, but scarce unhoused,  
In vigour fresh, the boar should view with keen  
Suspicious glance, the sportsmen posted round  
With beaming spears, and horses well in hand,  
Eager to urge him to the open plain;  
When, with infuriate and resistless charge,  
To the deep woods he'll force your phalanx back,  
Where, under cover of his native shades,  
He'll inch by inch, with fierceness more provoked,  
Hold out the better and the longer fight,  
Mingling his nauseous blood with every herb  
And every bud that pay the fragrant sweets  
In tribute to fair Flora's noon-day shrine.  
Hold, hold, by Jove, sportsmen, once more hold hard,  
For see the monster's off, and with a loose  
Unsteady gait attempts the open plain,  
And now, brave youths away, with well poised spears,  
Yield to your horse the fullest scope of rein,  
Nor spare the galling spur, for no mean foe  
Invites the trial of your utmost skill.  
Mark with what speed (16) that cannot long endure

(13) The celebrated Nemean lion, killed by Hercules.

(14) The principal danger in hunting the wild boar proceeds from bad riding, and a unskilful mode of carrying the spear.

(15.) Which yields the Cocoa-nut.

(16.) For the first mile the speed of the wild boar is very great.

He makes for yonder meadow'd dale, and feigns,  
In vain, with other wiles, the stop abrupt,  
The threatened change, and unexpected turn,  
As swallows of a summer's eve skim round  
With untired wing, encircle o'er the green,  
Or lake faint dimpling to the vernal breeze,  
With speed he still holds on,  
And toils it headlong through the faithless bog.  
Now up again panting he foams along  
The peopled vale, where driven varied ways (17)  
By his terrific sight, the grazing flocks,  
Children and men, cattle and ploughs, and carts  
Upset and tumbling all promiscuous fly  
The screaming field;—yet, yet in hopeless mood  
He lingers on for yon Savanna dark,  
Where the grey misty gloom that clouds the edge  
Of the wide waste, holds out some distant hope  
And prospect of escape; here have a care,  
And check your horse's speed, for by the rank  
And teeming vegetation's growth half hid,  
In gaping ambush sleeps the pitfall (18) dark,  
The deep morass, and nullah wide and dry,  
Worn by the torrent of the rainy year,  
In broad ravines, precipitately deep:  
Here too, be cautious, lest your horse's strength  
Should now begin to yield its fire and nerve  
To the protracted labours of the day,  
As in these vast and lone and dreary wastes,  
Late from the sickle herd by force expelled,  
Or luckier skill, the ruthless Urna (19) stands  
In mournful (20) solitude whilst every note  
That woos the spring's return, calls to his fond  
Remembrance happier days, when once he roved  
The chosen favorite of the female train,  
What time the flowery lawns and bosky shades,  
Fresh with the fragrant breath of vernal morn,  
Gave out their utmost sweets, or lingering still  
Faint in her dewy wane, the farewell sound  
In whispers of the parting eve, were heard  
As drowsy curfews hushed the peaceful vale,  
In all his shifts opposed, the foaming Boar  
Finds further flight in vain, and to the close  
And furious battle trusts;—ah! sad result,

(17.) This is really the case when a Boar takes over a plain in the cultivation of which the husbandmen are engaged, and I have known more than one or two melancholy instances of persons being killed upon the spot.

(18.) The principal danger is from the deep pits formed by the wild buffaloes in the rainy season.

(19.) Wild Buffalo.

(20.) In the vast herds of wild buffaloes that frequent the plains and woods of Bengal, there is always a leader or head; and in the spring of the year the most furious contentions take place between the candidates for dominion, which often ends in the death of one of the contending parties; but if the buffalo who loses the battle is driven from the herd, he becomes the terror of the surrounding country, takes up a solitary position on the plain, and attacks indiscriminately, men, horses, cattle, carriages, palanquins, and every thing that comes into contact with him. The sportsman is often obliged to relinquish the close pursuit, and becomes himself the pursued. If your horse is much fatigued and the buffalo should get you into deep and swampy ground, the danger is very great; the writer of this poem was some years ago in close pursuit of a boar in grass about three feet high, and in some places much higher, when just upon the point of spearing the boar, he came upon one of the deep pits formed by the buffaloes in the rainy season at full speed, and too suddenly to avoid it; fortunately his horse was a good one, and he cleared the pit in his gallop; as the rider in turning round after having done so, perceived a rhinoceros rising from the bottom of the pit. A friend of the writer of this, of sporting celebrity, now no more, some years ago, slapt a brace of beautiful greyhounds at a deer, which after a trying chase took to the water, the dogs followed, when a most extraordinary scene presented itself, the dogs were in close pursuit of the deer, an alligator was in pursuit of the dogs, one of which he succeeded in carrying away, and when the gentleman alluded to was overtaken by his attendants, they told him that in the early part of the chase, a wild buffalo was in close pursuit of him.



Suggested by despair, he stops abrupt,  
With fiery eyes advance that speak him now  
Not backward to a fair exchange of blood  
For blood, bristling he grinds his sharp projecting tusks  
In colour fairer e'en than orient pearls  
That in their purer and more snowy white,  
Rival but yet adorn the loveliest breasts  
Of Erin's blue eyed maids :—haste now and learn  
With seat secure at utmost speed (21.) with force,  
To send your whistling javlin winged with death,  
Deep in the watchful boar's broad ample crest ;  
Then wheel away, or with judicious stop,  
Firm on his pliant haunches well thrown back,  
Support your gallant steed, with nicest rein,  
To shun or else resist the deadly charge ;  
Now moderate your zeal, nor interrupt (22.)  
Him whose superior skill has duly gained  
The spearer's side, a post of honor oft  
With danger fraught, and perilous to keep.—  
That was a desperate and a ruthless charge,  
And see the well directed lance has struck  
The infuriate monster keen, and sharp, and sore,  
Whilst every painful movement that he makes,  
Fixes still deeper and with surer death  
Fast in his brawny back, and as he steals  
Lowering through briary brake, or silky grass,  
Serves as a beacon to the hotpursuit.—  
See yon poor bleeding (23.) horse, the most beloved  
Of all his master's stand, with fatal wound  
And downcast eyes bent on the bloody scene,  
Who at the dawn of day, with matchless fire  
Led on the flying field, when the first horn,  
Exulting shrill, proclaimed "Away." Hold, hold !  
For now the Boar to his last shifts reduced,  
Roaring with heart appalling yet renews  
The desperate fight, not fiercer bellowing forth  
From out the mortar's mouth, the fiery charge  
Deals all around the fatal shafts of death  
Now in his last sad impotence of rage  
He makes his dying stand, whilst grinding 'twixt  
His foaming tusks, with gore and blood distained,  
The many spears too firmly now transfixed  
Deep in his purple sides ; a lance well poised  
Thrown bisecting by an arm of well strung nerves,  
Dispels all further hope, and with a groan  
He yields his forfeit life, a well earned prize  
To those, who homeward now exulting turn  
Their steeds, whilst the past triumphs of the day,  
And every danger shunn'd, is often told,  
And oft repeated o'er and o'er again,  
With laughter's loud exaggerated tale.

(21.) The most elegant and skilful mode of spearing the wild boar is to run up alongside of him at full speed, before he has lost that confidence in his own, which urges him to stop and fight ; but bad ground, a want of hardiness in your horse, and often speed also, for at this time the boar is going at a rate not much inferior to your horse's, and indeed other circumstances, will seldom render this practicable.

(22.) Formerly when all the persons engaged in the chase were equally experienced, it was an established rule amongst the riders to prevent accidents, never to force the person who had got the right side of the boar during the pursuit to quit his position until he had either hit or missed the object, or the turn of the boar offered one of the other riders an opportunity of getting the spear side, when he kept it under the above circumstances, as long as he could, and so on alternately. A spear thrown with skill and strength, combined with the great additional force it acquires by the speed of the horse, will sometimes transfix the boar to the ground ; these rules however have now fallen into neglect, with the almost total discontinuance of one of the most noble and manly sports in the world, and in the few instances in which the diversion is still pursued, more danger is to be apprehended from the unexperienced sportsman, than from the boar.

(23.) When a horse has been once severely wounded, neither whip nor spear will get him near enough to the hog to admit of your delivering your spear with certainty ; there are however exceptions to this observation, and some horses have continued bold to the last, after having suffered repeated and severe wounds.

## Ball and Supper at the Government House.

The Governor General requests the Company of His Majesty's and the Honorable Company's Civil, Naval, and Military Servants, at a Ball and Supper, on Thursday, the 8th February, at 9 o'Clock.

Govt. House, Jan. 27, 1823.

D. RUDELL, Capt. A. D. C.

## Reconnaissance.

*A l'Editeur du Journal de Calcutta.*

MONSIEUR,

Si vous pensez que les Anglais et les Indoux n'ont pas seuls le privilège de la reconnaissance envers le Gouverneur Général ; si vous croyez que l'expression publique en est permise à tous ceux qui partagent ce sentiment, je me flatte que vous voudrez bien consigner dans votre JOURNAL celle d'un homme qui pour n'être ni Anglais ni Indoux, n'en éprouve pas moins des regrets aussi vifs que les leurs.

Il n'appartient pas, sans doute, à un étranger d'entrer dans les détails de sa glorieuse administration, et ce serait usurper un droit, que la considérer autrement que dans son ensemble ; mais quand cet étranger a vu tous les autres admis aux mêmes avantages que les sujets Britanniques ; quand il les a vus jouir partout du libre exercice de leur profession ; quand il les a vus enfin accueillis, secourus, protégés sur tout le territoire de la Compagnie, il peut alors, comme citoyen de l'Inde, proclamer des bienfaits aux quels il a participé.

C'est en cette qualité, Monsieur, que j'adresse ce faible hommage d'une profonde et respectueuse reconnaissance, bien persuadé d'ailleurs qu'il sera senti par tous mes compatriotes établis dans l'Inde.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

A. Z. Agriculteur.

## An Extraordinary Fact.

*To the Editor of the Journal.*

SIR,

Should the novelty of pursuing wild Cows and Bulls as game, render the subject worthy of publication, you are at liberty to insert the following account in your Paper :

During the present month, a party of Gentlemen, on a shooting excursion from Futchgurh, having heard of a jungle to the Westward of the District of Furruckabad, in which there were said to be abundance of wild Cows and Bulls, proceeded to the spot. They entered the jungle between two and three o'clock in extent, and in a short time discovered a herd of wild cattle, looking prodigiously fresh and fat, promising an adequate return for expenditure of Powder and Ball to the hungry Sportsman. There were about four and twenty in the herd, besides two or three Calves. The largest animal, a Bull, was selected as a prey for the party : he received with little effect three or four balls, but being followed up, five or six more balls were lodged in him, when he fell—one Calf was afterwards dropped the first shot, but it rose again and ran a considerable distance, an act highly applauded by the connoisseurs of veal, who shortly after secured it for the table. The Calf was very fat.

It will hardly be credited by the most experienced Sportsman that such game as wild cattle may be met with in the Western Provinces, more especially in the Donab, and in the District of Furruckabad, where very little jungle now remains uncut.

The neighbouring villagers state that the entire herd derived their origin from one lame Cow, many years ago turned adrift in the jungles as being useless to its proprietor. The race has gradually increased, but nothing will induce the wild cattle to unite with the domesticated flocks grazing around.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

Camp Sirpurah, Zillah }  
Furruckabad, Jan. 14, 1823. }

ONE OF THE PARTY.

**Ghost of an Information.**

"A GOBLIN DAMN'D."—HAMLEY.

*To the Editor of the Journal.*

SIR,

There are some ugly rumours afloat touching the Ghost of a Criminal Information; for my own part, I am a cautious man and make it a positive rule never to believe any thing but upon the best evidence the case will admit: unless therefore you will assure the world that such a Ghost stalks the earth I will not believe it.

Sir Matthew Hale was no friend to Criminal Informations, which Blackstone endeavours to account for in these words:—"It is true, Sir Matthew Hale is said to have been no friend to this method of prosecution; and if so, the reason of such his dislike was probably the ill use which the Master of the Crown Office made of his authority, by permitting the subject to be harassed with vexatious Informations whenever applied to by any malicious or revengeful prosecutors; rather than his doubt of their legality or propriety on urgent occasions."

This of course cannot in any manner apply to the Information in question; it has doubtless been resuscitated for wise and good purposes, and of course it was not originally filed, but upon the most urgent occasion, otherwise the Guardians of the Public Safety would not have allowed it to slumber so soundly and so long that all men thought it was defunct.

It has been currently reported that it expired—poor thing! for want of a leg to stand upon.

Jan. 27, 1823.

MUNGO MALAGROWTHER.

**NOTE.**

We have learnt, with as much surprise as our Correspondent, that the Criminal Information is revived: but by whose directions, or for what particular reason, we are entirely ignorant. It was originally moved for, in order to put a stop to the discussion of what was alleged to be a Libel then before the Court. An English Jury, however, subsequently decided that the alleged Libel was not a Libel, but a justifiable and proper comment on the official conduct of the United Secretaries, who then formed the Prosecutors; in addition to which, all further discussion of the matter then before the Court did cease accordingly; so that the end for which the Information was avowedly moved, was fully answered by its being filed; and it was naturally supposed that the *foundation* being shewn to be wrongly considered as libellous, and consequently destroyed, the whole superstructure raised on it would have fallen to the ground. The Information accordingly lay dormant so long, that no one we believe dreamt of its revival.

It cannot be the new Government we should think, which has moved this renewal of so old an affair; because a temporary Governor General might be expected to await the arrival of the permanent Ruler appointed from home, rather than distinguish an Interregnum or Regency of a few months by any but the most benevolent acts,—with of course as many Levees, Balls, and Suppers, as might be deemed necessary for the support of a Governor General's dignity;—neither can we understand how it can be the work of the Six Secretaries. Yet it cannot have renewed itself—it must have had some kind hand to brush off the accumulated dust of fifteen months, from the ponderous load of parchment, when it was taken down again from among the dusty records of days gone by. All these things of course will be learnt in due time; and we shall be able, we hope, to communicate to our anxious readers, all the various details of minor points, such as the choice of a Special Jury to try the case, rather than trust it to that class of Jurors who understood their duty so imperfectly, it might be thought, in the former instance: of whom that Special Jury will be composed; how and by whom they will be nominated and selected, &c. &c.—all of which are

of course legitimate and harmless articles of information to lay before the Public.

The object now cannot be to punish an individual for persevering in the discussion of alleged Libels before the Court; unless the movers have mistaken the name of the Paper in which these discussions are carried on. We have now pending in Court a Civil Action against the Proprietors and Editor of JOHN BULL, for the several Libels of the FRIEND or Mr. BANKS, NIGEL, SEMPRONUS, CIVILIS and many others; and that cause has been before the Court for many weeks past; yet the JOHN BULL has contained Letter after Letter, day after day, bearing on the question at issue; and no public Prosecutor steps forward to say that HE is attempting to impede the due course of Justice by persevering in the discussion of matters actually pending in Court. Oh! not such an *innocent* Paper as that, supported by such high-minded Proprietors, and fed by such pure and disinterested Contributors, who have no relation with Government or Government Officers, who are neither private Secretaries nor public ones, neither Aides-de-Camp nor Chaplains, neither holy Preachers nor profane Compellers of Stationery, (from all of which, Secretarial Secrets, Military Proscriptions, Theological Anathemas; and though last not least, pen, ink, and paper, might have been equally supplied, if it were possible to effect such a union);—such an innocent Paper as the BULL, we say, which is free from all this, could not be suspected of any attempt to impede the course of Justice, and therefore it would be quite wrong in any one to notice its discussion of matters before the Court, more particularly as they relate to a case in which the CALCUTTA JOURNAL is concerned; as, by the consent of all loyal and well disposed men, what might be criminal in the one, would be perfectly innocent in the other! so much is the complexion of every act changed by time, place, and circumstance, and by the channel through which it appears.

In the case we have pending against the Proprietors of the BULL, we have asked for the real authors of the Letters complained of, and dared them to the proof: the chief object we have in view being to shew the world that we dread no disclosures, and shrink from no discussion. The names of the Authors have been refused to us, although the whole of their Libels consist in defamation of private character, so that we proceed civilly against the Proprietors and Editor of the BULL, as a matter of necessity, to give them the fullest opportunity of proof.

In the Criminal Information revived against us, we are to be proceeded against without any demand of Authors, without any opportunity of justifying by proof; and the whole of the alleged Libels turn on the discussion of what a Jury has already pronounced to be not a Libel, and consist in public comments on the public and official acts of public men, without a single allusion to the private characters of any individual named or indicated throughout the whole of the discussion.

The fate of the former (the Proprietors and Editor of the BULL) will be decided by the Bench, and the result, if conviction, will be a pecuniary sacrifice in damages.

The fate of the latter (in the Criminal Information) will be decided by a Jury (whether Special or otherwise is not yet we believe determined); and the result, if conviction, will be a fine to the King, and imprisonment in the Great Jail of Calcutta for a term depending on the discretion of the Judge.

We leave the Reader to draw his own inferences and make his own comments in a comparison of the cases; and content ourselves for the present with reporting the progress of each of them. In the Civil Action, the time allowed for the Defendants to put in their plea expires on the 28th inst. In the Criminal Information some discussion will probably take place on Thursday the 30th, but the day of Trial remains yet, we believe, to be fixed. We shall keep our Readers well informed, however, on a point of so much public interest; and only rejoice with them to see the Law regarded as superior to Discretionary Power, and hope with them that Justice will be purely and impartially administered.



# ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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## Selections.

**Bombay, January 9, 1823.**—A Packet is now open at the Post Office for the reception of Letters to be transmitted to England and Cape of Good Hope by the Ship *BARKWORTH*, which will be closed, we understand, to-morrow evening at 5 o'clock.

On Friday last, John Leckie [Esq. was sworn in Mayor, and Henry Grey, Esq. Sheriff, of Bombay, for the present year.

On Monday evening the friends of Mrs. General Wilson gave a Ball and Supper to the settlement, on occasion of that Lady's departure for Surat. At eight o'clock the Company began to assemble, and it was past nine before the whole had arrived. We have seldom witnessed a more elegant assemblage at this Presidency, and our Belles displayed their unrivalled charms with the happiest effect. Dancing commenced about ten, Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Fawcett opening the Ball, and dancing down many couples with much grace and animation. This was continued with cheerfulness and vivacity until past twelve, when it was announced the Supper Tables were arranged. After Supper the sprightly dance was renewed, and most happily enjoyed until an early hour.

The very spirited arrangement of the Stewards gave universal satisfaction; and it must have been highly pleasing to those gentlemen who undertook that laborious office to find their endeavours crowned with such complete success, and that they so amply succeeded in diffusing through the Company a general spirit of hilarity and festivity.

**Bombay Sessions.**—The first Session of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal delivery commenced yesterday, the 7th of January, before the Hon'ble Sir Anthony Butler, Knight, Recorder of Bombay. The Court having been opened with the usual ceremony, the following Gentlemen were sworn in to compose the Grand Jury.

**BENJAMIN NOTON, Esq. Foreman.**

W. T. Graham, Esq.	T. Crawford, Esq.
W. Mainwaring, Esq.	W. Nicholl, Esq.
T. D. Beatty, Esq.	J. Saunders, Esq.
W. C. Brace, Esq.	D. Seton, Esq.
W. Peel, Esq.	A. Inglis, Esq.
J. Forbes, Esq.	I. Fawcett, Esq.
T. Riddock, Esq.	E. Elliott, Esq.
A. Mackintosh, Esq.	and
P. H. Hadow, Esq.	F. Bouchier, Esq.

His Lordship commenced his charge to the Grand Jury by observing, that tho' he believed very few cases would be submitted to them for their consideration, he was sorry to state, that three indictments for homicide would be brought before them, and his Lordship then proceeded to define with great perspicuity the different degrees of guilt which attached to the crime, which he observed, depended not only in the motives which the Jury might think operated in the minds of those to whom the offences were imputed, but also on the particular circumstances whence the Jury would draw their conclusions.

His Lordship then adverted to the **Town Goal**, and recommended to the Grand Jury their visiting it either in a **Body** or by deputation, in order to ascertain if the improvements formerly recommended, had been carried into effect.

The Court then adjourned until this day at 10 o'clock.—*Bombay Gazette.*

**Weather at Madras.**—The Madras Papers report boisterous weather to have been experienced at that Presidency; and a private letter of the same date which we had the pleasure to receive on Saturday, describes the severe weather encountered by the brig *DOLPHIN*, Capt. East, of this port, in the following terms:

"**Madras, January 11, 1823.**—The *GOLCONDA* and *MOINA* have not yet arrived here: we have had foul weather here these 6 days, and are anxiously looking for those Ships. I put to Sea from Pondicherry roads on the 29th of December with threatening weather and a heavy Sea, and stood to the Eastward; had unpleasant time of it from the day we left until the 4th of January, when in latitude 16° 39' North and Long. 82° 30' a very severe gale commenced at N. N. E. and North, and blew the whole of the day, when it shifted suddenly to West with increased violence until noon on the 6th, then it flew round to S.S.W. and South, where it continued blowing with all its heart until the beginning of the 9th, when it came from S. E. and lasted the greater part of the day. We had been driven by the Western part of it as far East as 87° 54' and have suffered greatly—all our Rigging is chafed to pieces, our Siam-knee gone and many of our Sails we were obliged to cut away to save the Masts. During the heaviest part of the Gale she gained for some time upon both pumps, and we should have thrown our Cargo overboard but durst not take off the Hatch as the Vessel was hardly ever above water. Our poor unfortunate Lasars have been nearly dead with fatigue and constant hard rain during 6 days when they could not cook; we were in consequence obliged to feed them with Grog and Biscuit; the gale took off on the afternoon of the 6th and we got in here on the 10th."

**Shipping at Siam.**—We are happy to learn that the fears expressed in our Paper of Thursday, in the "Journal of a Traveller," relative to the Ships remaining in Siam, after the departure of the *PHOENIX*, were greatly overrated, and that persons more intimately acquainted with their situation than the writer could possibly be, entertain no such fears in their account.—*Hurburn.*

**Distressed Irish.**—The Bengal Subscription for the relief of our poor distressed Irish fellow subjects now amounts to One Lakh and Eighty-nine Thousand Rupees! As the Subscription is to close immediately, those who have not yet subscribed, but mean to do so, should without loss of time send in their contributions,—and such as have not yet forwarded their contributions, though their names be down, should remit the former to the Treasurer of the Charity without delay, so as to be transmitted with as little loss of time as possible to the scene of distress. At the commencement of the subscription, we question if any one anticipated the possibility of its going beyond a Lakh. Benevolence, however, we are happy to say, runs with a deeper flow among us than one might at first imagine. When moved in a proper cause, Philanthropy is a most powerful and pervading sentiment; and never has it been more successfully, or more properly roused, than among the Native and European population of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, on this occasion. Expectations are even alive that the subscription here will close at two Lakhs! We really wish it would come up to that round sum, and the probability is, that our wish on this head shall be gratified.—*India Gazette.*

To the Committee, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of acquainting you that I have this day received from Mr. Roberts, our Treasurer, a set of Bills for £1000. These shall go by the *WINCHELSEA*, *LADY RAFFLES*, and *PROVIDENCE*, and together with the Money already remitted, will complete the sum of £17,394—5.

I hope it will be practicable to realise all the subscriptions before the 31st of this month, and that those who have not yet subscribed will send the amount which they may contribute before that day, as it is of great importance that such relief as we can afford should reach the sufferers before July next.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful and obedient Servant,

F. MACNAGHTEN, Chairman.

Wednesday, the 22d of January, 1823.

**David Clark's Island.**—We have great pleasure in subjoining a communication with which we have been politely favored, and for the authenticity of which we vouch, respecting the discovery in the South sea of a new Island, called by the discoverers *DAVID CLARK'S* Island. It is inhabited, but the natives are apparently wild and shy.—From the same gentleman who obliged us with the document alluded to, we have received an interesting account of a late visit to Otaheite. Though the writer modestly requested us to new arrange his notes for the public eye, we prefer giving them in his own simple and appropriate language, which will be much more acceptable to our readers than any modified and more laboured account.

Let those who look with an eye of suspicion or incredulity on the labours of Christian Missionaries in different parts of the world, peruse in a spirit of candour our Correspondent's reflections upon the effects of Christianity on the minds of the Otaheiteans; and they cannot but confess that every encouragement ought to be thrown in the way of Christian Missionaries, who labour in the vineyard often with but a most scanty temporal measure of reward, and solely with the view of reclaiming human souls from the dreary darkness and horrors of superstition and vice. Human sacrifices, and the atrocious orgies of the *Arreoi* Society no longer exist in Otaheite; the natives of that island are not now thieves and pilferers. What a triumph to Christianity is this! May we not hope that the day is not far distant when the baleful *astus de fe*, which are the disgrace of Hindooism, shall also be extinguished; the *Churruk* Poojah, self mutilation and immolation, and parricide and universal perjury abolished? It was easier to perfect a similar labour at Otaheite than here. There the natives were in a state of nature, and ready to receive new impressions. They had not attained that pitch of civilization where dogmatism and arrogance commence. They had not voluminous codes of laws. They had not a double language—one for the laity, and one for the priesthood. They had not an enormously embroiled hierarchy enjoying privileges incompatible with social prosperity and happiness. Their nobles and dignitaries were not clad in gorgeous raiment, sheltered in splendid palaces, and decked in costly jewels; the products of trade and the arts, which although humanising in their influence, include, nevertheless, elements of demoralization, which exist not where these are unknown. Here the natives must be educated, step by step, in the principles of general learning—not of a particular religion. That, say they we have already, and are content; but give us your knowledge, that we may turn it to useful worldly purposes—give us your sciences and trades, and handicrafts, and your works of imagination, of history, of

poetry. They must be left to these and the slow course of time. A taste for our literature is, we should suppose, the first thing to be instilled into them. They cannot fall in process of time to admire our moral code, and as that is the code received from the founder of Christianity, it will have its effect silently but powerfully—and, unawares to themselves, they will gradually become Christianized. At first they should, we humbly suppose, be left to draw their own inferences from our Scriptures. When they begin to *question* concerning these, then is the time to teach them the doctrines of Christianity; to help them when at a loss; to expound, to comment, and finally to exhort. The Missionary College at Serampore, and the various Schools established in Calcutta and other parts of the country, where native adults as well as children, are taught upon the most conciliatory and encouraging plan, in a way calculated to disarm all apprehension respecting an offensive interference with their religious creed,—have already, we conceive, produced highly beneficial effects, and we trust these are, daily increasing. Here follow the documents to which we have already referred:—

"On July 18, 1823, we discovered in the Ship *Good Hope* an Island, which we made in Lat.  $17^{\circ} 19' S.$  and Long. by corresponding lunars and chronometers; in Long.  $135^{\circ} 30' W.$  It is apparently about 20 miles in circumference, very low and dangerous, particularly so as it lies far to windward of all the known islands, composing the group of the dangerous Archipelago. It is inhabited. As four canoes made off to us; the Ship was hove to, but we could not induce the Natives by any signs to come alongside, or to approach nearer than about a quarter of a mile. One of them stood up in his canoe, and made a long and apparently animated oration (if we could judge by his gestures), to the Ship, accompanied by his companions frequently crying out the syllable *Ho*. We lowered a boat, but as soon as they saw us pull towards them, they paddled away in great consternation for the shore; however, the boat overtook them, but their terror was so great, that no sign or present we offered them, could prevail upon them to stop. Their canoes were of very rude construction, without rigging: they had spears with them, but adapted apparently for fishing only, as they did not attempt to use them. They had, all of them, a piece of cloth, like the Otaheitan manufacture, wrapped round their middle; and one of them a string of pieces of pearl shells round his neck. They did not seem to appear more alarmed when a gun was presented at them; indeed, it was very evident that they had never before seen Europeans. Night approaching, and being already far from the Ship, the boat returned without making any further researches.

Assuming the right of Discoverers, we named it David Clark's Island.

October 13, 1823.—After sailing from Otaheite we again discovered two Islands. The one, Reirson's Island, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 6' S.$  and Long.  $160^{\circ} 55' W.$ ; and the other, Humphrey's Island, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 30' S.$  and Long.  $161^{\circ} 2' W.$

Reirson's Island is inhabited; we passed very close to it, and observed a number of the natives running to the point nearest the Ship; they however launched no canoes.

Humphrey's Island must be also inhabited, from its proximity to the other, and its being to leeward. They are both low, the coconut trees with which they are covered being the first indication of land.

It may be here proper to remark that, the Latitude of Bird Island, one of the Ladrões, is incorrectly stated by Horsburgh in the Directory of 1819.

We made it in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 3' N.$  and Long.  $146^{\circ} 45' E.$ ; consequently the passage between it and the Isle of Saypan is much narrower than what he states it.

The *Good Hope* anchored on the 25th July 1823, in the harbour of Bapeite, one of the numerous and secure havens formed by the coral reefs, which almost encircle the island of Otaheite. On anchoring, altho' it rained heavily, we were surrounded by canoes full of the natives, who soon crowded our decks. We were struck with admiration at beholding their manly and indeed gigantic figures, far exceeding the European standard. The Chiefs, too, were particularly distinguished by their superior stature.

They welcomed us with every gesture by which they could signify their kindness; in imitation of us they now shake the hand, but joining noses were their former mode of salutation.

Notwithstanding the now frequent visits that are made them, their curiosity was very great: in an instant every part of the Ship was minutely inspected,—even the rigging was filled with them. We were at first alarmed, as even our cabins were not held sacred; however we soon found that we had nothing to fear, as altho' every thing underwent a scrutiny they would not have disgraced a Portsmouth searber, and with every facility of pilfering with impunity, yet nothing was missed. On the following day we were visited by the Queen Regent, the present King, son of the late Pomare, famous in Missionary annals, being a minor: she was attended by only four of her principal chiefs, and brought

us a present of a pig, and a double canoe laden with yams, plantains, coconuts, &c. She welcomed us to her dominions, promised us her protection and the assistance of her subjects, and when informed of the necessity we were under of remaining some time, appointed us as a residence one of her own palaces, upwards of 200 feet in length.

This celebrated Island has been too minutely described by the immortal Cook to require any addition; but it may be interesting to remark the great change of manners that has taken place since his time. The Missionary Society may boast of at least one point where their benevolence has been rewarded—by the conversion of a whole people from a religion of the most barbarous and dreadful description, polluted by frequent human sacrifices, to an adoption of the mild precepts of Christianity.

The consequent change in their moral character is most extraordinary, particularly in that necessary distinction between *Meum* and *Tuum*. Cook describes them as being the most accomplished race of thieves he had ever met with; when, at present, as I have already observed, every thing belonging to us was exposed, and at the mercy of their cupidity not the veriest trifle was taken away.

They have now a regular code of laws and form of trial, which is by judges (not to be fewer in number than six) chosen from their Chiefs. The proceedings are very simple, and would not, I am afraid, suit any other than this primitive people. The culprit is condemned on his own confession only—but if ascertained that he has lied, the odium he incurs is so great that these has hardly been an instance where it has been necessary to examine witnesses.


The punishment of theft and incontinency is to cause the offender to make or mend a certain portion of the public roads. Tattooing, which is now considered an offence, (and indeed is the most frequent one) is also thus punished.—Treason and murder are the only capital crimes, and are punished with death, by hanging; there have been hitherto but two offenders of this description, for treason. The gibbet on which they suffered still remains a conspicuous object in errorum.

The observance of the Sabbath is also enforced by law, and so strictly that a canoe must not be launched, nor their food cooked on this day. They are constant in their attendance at divine service twice a day on Sundays and Wednesdays, exclusive of prayer meetings, &c.; besides the Missionaries they have their own ministers, who preach long extemporaneous sermons, apparently with great effect. Their singing is very good; and wherever the residing Missionary understands music, their proficiency is extraordinary; singing by notes in a style far superior to our own general congregations.

Their Chapels are well built; the pulpits and seats are ornamented with carved work. In Eimeo, an Island in sight of Otaheite, they are now finishing a Chapel built of hewn coral rock, which has a beautiful appearance.

Property may be almost styled in common, as they never refuse a request; and even the most valuable presents we could make the Chiefs, were frequently not a moment in their possession, unless they had made a previous promise to preserve them for our sakes. Consequently they have not such a word in the language as gratitude—nor can they express "thank you." We were at first mortified to see them receive the most esteemed gifts with perfect indifference.

Charity is no virtue with them. I understand that the good people in England proposed establishing here an Orphan Society, not being aware that there is not an orphan, at least a destitute, on the island. On the birth of a child three or four fathers and mothers are appointed to it, (besides the natural parents,) who bind themselves to support and protect it, and who are indeed ambitious to do so, as an additional number is considered an increase of consequence to the society or family the child is introduced into.

While we were on the island, they adopted a Flag (a red fly, with a Star in the quarter, thus ); and by a whaler which touched at the Island on her way home, intimated it to the British Government, and claimed its protection. The letter to this effect was written by the Queen herself. To make a noise on the occasion, we lent them our great guns, when they fired a royal salute, accompanied by the discharge of every musket on the island.

The population altho' greatly diminished since Cook's time, is now on the increase, in consequence of the new system, by which females are more respected, and by which marriages are encouraged; and the abolition of that horrible Erree society described by Cook: its effects are still seen by the disproportion of women to the men.

The greatest objects of their ambition, at present, are muskets and dress. It is amusing to see their display of the latter, they are now so well supplied, that there is scarcely a Chief but can sport a coat, and sometimes a naval uniform is seen, since the visit paid them by H. M. ship *DAUNTLESS*. Shoes and stockings, and even the more necessary appendages of trousers or shirts, do not however always accompany



them. The ladies are much better clad than the gentlemen,—they manufacture very tasteful Bonnets, in imitation of English straw, and are so tolerably supplied from Port Jackson and by vessels that call, that few are obliged to have recourse to their own country clothes or a Sunday display.

There are some run-away Sailors on the Island, who do the natives a great deal of harm by their dissolute lives, and I think to say that the only one instance of theft discovered while we were there, was by a refugee from Port Jackson, who was caught in the fact, pinioned, and dragged away to justice in the face of the whole inhabitants.

The greatest failing of the Islanders—one, indeed, common to all savage and half-civilized people—is an excessive fondness for ardent spirits; but notwithstanding this weakness, they have virtue enough to destroy all the stills on the island, and to prohibit the manufacture of *Ava* under the penalty of banishment for life. The art of distillation had been taught them by some of our countrymen, when a hollowed stone served them for a boiler, a bamboo for a worm, and a canoe for a cooler.

Captain Cook has been a most invaluable friend and benefactor to the Island; and so grateful were the natives, that only on the introduction of Christianity have they ceased to *adore* him; thus, perhaps, many a poor victim has been sacrificed to him whose nature was so opposed to cruelty.

The cane is now cultivated, and sugar made by one of the Missionaries. The Otahaitian cane, your readers will be aware, has been introduced into all our West India Islands, Brazil, &c., and has been universally cultivated in preference to the indigenous or Creole cane, from its larger size and superior hardihood.

Cotton and tobacco grow wild; the former is of very superior quality. A Weaver has been sent out by the Society to teach the natives the art of making cloth.—Oranges, pines, papaw, apples, guavas, limes, chaddocks, the pumpkin, sweet potato, and Brazil yam, are among the numerous vegetables introduced by Bligh and Cook.—Pigs and Fowls are plentiful, and Goats, a late introduction, have actually overrun the Island: the natives, however, have an aversion to them, arising from their delicate sense of smell, which is extraordinary.—They are very fond of fine perfumes, and indeed make or distill a great variety themselves, with which, (mixed with coconut oil,) they anoint themselves.

An interesting circumstance is, the valuable subscriptions that have been made in all the Society Islands for the benefit of the Missionary Society. The *WYTHMORELAND*, a Ship of 400 tons, was chartered by them, and nearly laden with their contributions, consisting of coconut oil, arrow root, cotton, &c.

I have invariably called the Island Otahaiti from Cook, altho' the real name is Tahiti. The O being the pronoun that, which in answer to Cook's inquiry, was used "O, tahiti," that "is Tahiti."—*India Gazette*.

**Further particulars of the Fire at Canton.**—The fire commenced about nine o'clock at night of the 1st of Nov. at the distance of about a mile and a half from the British Factories, intelligence of which being communicated to the Supracargoes, they as usual, dispatched the company's Engine, accompanied by several Members of the Factory, and many other Foreigners, to the spot where it was then raging, but no water was to be procured, nor did there appear to be any endeavour on the part of the Chinese, to arrest its progress, altho' urged on by the active exertions of the few Europeans on the spot, and by their earnest entreaties, demonstrating the great danger that existed from the extreme violence of the wind.—After some delay, water was procured for the Engine, and several others were put in motion from the Hoongs of the Merchants.

At twelve o'clock the wind which had hitherto been from the North, East, changed to the North, blowing directly upon the foreign Factories, and with increased violence; it was then apparent to every one that they were in considerable danger unless the Chinese would destroy the houses adjoining those in flames; to which effect, the chief Supracargo addressed letters to the Viceroy in the city, and to officers attending at the fire in listless inactivity; more over offers were made for the remuneration of those who suffered by the voluntary destruction of their property. From the punctual adherence of the Commanders to their orders for the prevention of disturbances between the sailors and Chinese, no English Boat was then in Canton with the exception of one belonging to the Honorable Company's Ship *Princess Amelia*, just arrived from the second bar, by which orders were dispatched to all the Ships at Whampoa to send up Boats to assist in arresting the progress of the fire if possible, as well as for the protection and preservation of the Hon'ble Company's property.

The Bales of Woollens, &c. in the Warehouses were then moved out to Chinese Boats on the Quay ordered for their reception, but in consequence of the inability of the English to procure Coolies, their exertions were rendered almost fruitless, until the subsequent arrival of the Sailors from the Hon'ble Company's Ships afforded more effectual assistance for the removal of as much as the time would then admit of.

At three o'clock in the morning, the wind continued in the same point, and the fire evidently approached with such rapid strides as to leave but little hope that it could be prevented from reaching the foreign Factories. The Engines, were consequently concentrated for the protection of the house and property of the Hon'ble Company, and again as large a body of Foreigners as could be collected began to destroy the combustible materials of those houses adjoining the point of conflagration, but few in number themselves, unaided and even impeded in their exertions by the Chinese, little good could be effected.—The Mandarines, believing it an inevitable dispensation of Providence, never bestowed the least attention upon the representations of the Supracargoes for the prevention of the increase of this awful Calamity.

Nothing now remained for the members of the Factories but to be passive spectators of approaching desolation, enclosed in a small and confined space, without the possibility of turning their exertions to any avail, almost all foreign property in Canton was involved in ruin, from the culpable negligence of the local officers and superstitious inactivity of the people.

At seven o'clock, some American Boats arrived, the Officers and men of which immediately applied themselves where they could be most useful; but it was then too late, and the arrival of the English Boats a short time afterwards (owing to their greater distance from Canton than the American ships) only afforded the means of rescuing from the Warehouses a small proportion of Woollens.

About the hour of nine the British Factories were in flames at five or six points, the fire approached in a line embracing the whole extent of the foreign Factories from the Creek on one side to Mowqua Hong upon the other; At the same period, the rooms at the back of the Warehouse, those in front of a small Racquet Court at the end of the New Factory, together with the Dutch Factory were burning rapidly, and the whole of a street called Hog Lane, running parallel to the side of the Factory, was in flames.

For a considerable time it was hoped that the Warehouse might have been saved, as it resisted burning from the conflagration of the rooms behind it, when the fire had exhausted itself, but although the Engines were in play, and all exertions used to protect the Hall and Library, which joined it in front, the wind swept the flames so rapidly along, as to bid defiance to all resistance, and at last the fire from the Library and Warehouse ignited the roof,—all efforts were then nugatory for the further preservation of its contents.

Every exertion that human ability could devise or execute by the means and physical force in the power of the Europeans was made, but in vain—and about twelve o'clock, all the foreign Factories were in flames, beyond the possibility of entering them, and the few yards of Quay between the Factories and the River were almost impervious, owing to the smoke and flames that issued from them.

At three o'clock Foreigners of every description were driven to take refuge in the Boats filled with the wreck of the property rescued from flames;—It would be a vain effort to attempt a description of the misery and destruction of property that has resulted to the Chinese, as well as to the Foreigners in general at Canton: had not the Natives in the British employ been under the general consternation, more property might have been saved.

The company are stated to have sustained a loss, by the destruction of Woollens, amounting to above 28 Lacs of Rupees.—*John Bull*.

### Shipping Arrivals.

#### BOMBAY.

Date.	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Jan.	3 Tartar	British	J. Rods	Colipatam	—
	3 La Eugenie	French	P. Canzade	Bordeaux	May 20
	3 Sylph	British	G. Middleton	Burat	—

### Stations of Vessels in the River.

#### CALCUTTA, JANUARY 26, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—H. C. S. *COLDSTREAM*,—CATHERINE, outward-bound, remains,—MARY ANN SOPHIA, passed down.

Kodgers.—ATINY ROHANAN, and LARRINS, outward-bound, remain,—CARRAS, and MERCUS, (Brig), proceeded down,—LA BELLE ALLIANCE, LADY RAFFLES, TRAVANCORE, FARRERHAY, FYLARBORANV, DEREK BEGGY, and TAJE, outward-bound, remain.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships GENERAL HEWITT, THAMES, MAR-CHIONESS OF ELY, WINCHELSEA, and WARREN HASTINGS.

Saugor.—MELICKEL BRUH, and ROHALIA, (P.), outward-bound remain,—GENERAL LECOR, (P.), LEE, (P.), and CAMBERS, (P.), gone to Sea.

**Meerut Races.**

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to send you an account of our Meerut Race Meeting for the first week: our Sport has been greatly diminished by the unusual number of Horses which have been lamed.

Your's,

Meerut, Jan. 11, 1823.

A FRIEND OF THE TURF.

**MEERUT RACES, JANUARY 7, 1823.**

Purse of 25 Gold Mohurs for half-bred Horses, weight for age. Heats 1½ miles.—Entrance 3 Gold Mohurs.

Nuwab Shumshoor Bahadur's b. m. *Spindleshanks*, 7 years old, 9 st. 7 lb. walked over.

Pony Purse 15 Gold Mohurs, heats 1 mile. Entrance 3 Gold Mohurs.—Country Ponies allowed 3 lb.

	st.	lb.	oz.	Heats.
Nuwab Shumshoor Bahadur's ch. m. <i>Perie</i> ,...	7	3	2	1 1
Mr. Hardtman's b. p. <i>Little Pat</i> , .....	6	7	0	2 2
Mr. O'Keefe's b. p. <i>Little Dick</i> , .....	4	2	4	4 3
Captain Wyatt's b. m. <i>Patch</i> , .....	7	6	8	4 dra.

First heat won easy. The second heat was very interesting until they reached the distance, when the superior strength and the high blood of *Perie*, enabled her to leave her opponents at pleasure.

Captain Jenkins's b. Galloway *Ellen*, by *Barbarian*, 7 st. 7 lb. beat Captain Wyatt's b. Galloway *Meliora*, by *Delusion*, 7 st.—1 mile—A very fine Race—Time 2' 3".—*Ellen* is probably one of the most beautiful Galloways in India, and from the superior manner in which she was trained, she was enabled to maintain her pace the whole Race, even against a Mare of such known bottom as *Meliora*.

Captain Wyatt's ch. m. *Cassandra*, sister to *Laurel Leaf*, 9 st. beat Mr. O'Keefe's gr. h. *Saracen*, 8 st. 11 lb.—2 miles.—Won very easy. Much sport was expected from this Race, but the public expectation was disappointed, owing to *Saracen* having been lamed in shoeing.

Captain Jenkin's *Devonshire Lass*, by *Marplot*, 3 years old, 7 st. 4 lb. beat Mr. O'Keefe's ch. colt *Kingfisher*, 4 years old, 8 st. 4 lb. half a mile. *Kingfisher* got a bad start and was beat very easy.

Mr. O'Keefe's b. f. *Lauretta*, by *Benedick*, out of *Laura*, 3 years old, 7 st. 11 lb. received forfeit, from Captain Jenkins's ch. colt *Acquisition*, by *Benedick*, out of *Goodnature*, 3 years old, 7 st. 4 lb.—T. Y. C.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1823.**

Purse of 40 Gold Mohurs, for all maidens, heats 1½ mile, entrance 4 Gold Mohurs, 2 years old, 8 st. 6 lb.—3 years old, 7 st. 2 lb.—4 years old, 8 st. 5 lb.—5 years old, 8 st. 12 lb.—6 years old, 9 st. 2 lb.

Mr. O'Keefe's b. m. *Enigma*, by *Delusion*, 8 st. 9 lb. 2 1 1

Captain Wyatt's g. f. *Cottage Maid*, by *Benedick*, out of an Arab Mare, 8 st. 2 lb. 1 2 2

Captain Jenkin's ch. f. *Pandora*, by *Benedick*, out of *Turquin's* dam, 8 st. 2 lb. 3 3 3

1st Heat ran in 3' 5"—2d Heat 3' 31"—3d Heat 3' 10"

*Enigma*, the favourite. This was one of the best contested races we have ever seen. Each heat won with the greatest difficulty, after the first heat 2 to 1 on *Cottage Maid*, and after the second heat even betting.

Purse of 40 Gold Mohurs for all Arabs, 8 st. 7 lb.—Maidens allowed 6 lb.—Heats 1½ miles.—Entrance 4 Gold Mohurs.

Mr. Robert Hare's br. Arab *Nigel*, 8 st. 7 lb. 1 1

Mr. Boggies' ch. A. *Serjeant Apple*, 8 st. 2 lb. 2 3

Mr. Hardtman's gr. A. *Bolter*, 8 st. 2 lb. dist.

*Bolter*, as was expected, bolted. The *Serjeant*, not having been sufficiently drilled, was beat easy.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1823.**

Third year of the *Slender Billy* stakes 10 Gold Mohurs, with 25 added by Mr. O'Keefe, for all Horses bred in India.

st.	lb.	st.	lb.
2 years old, 6	0	1. Mr. Hardtman's, gr. e. <i>Turquin</i> ,...	7 9
3 years old, 7	9	2. Captain Wyatt's, ch. m. <i>Cassandra</i> ,...	9 5
4 years old, 8	11	3. Mr. O'Keefe's, b. m. <i>Enigma</i> ,...	9 1
5 years old, 9	4	4. Shumshoor Bahadur's, ch. m. <i>Flora</i> ,...	9 1
6 years old, 9	8		
7 years old, 9	10		

*Turquin*, ran the race at a score from the Post he was never headed, and won by several lengths. Even setting, or *Turquin*, against the Field. I would be a great treat to the Sporting World to see this noble colt matched against the far famed *Silly Beggar Girl*, who probably would meet her match without going to Newmarket. Time 3' 37"

Purse of 30 Gold Mohurs.—Entrance 5 Gold Mohurs.—weight for inches, 14 hands, 8 st. 7 lb.—1½ miles heats: st. lb. oz. Heats.

Captain Wyatt's b. h. *Harlequin*, 8 st. 10 lb. 8 1 1

Captain Jenkins's b. m. *Ellen*, 7 st. 5 lb. 12 2 2

Mr. O'Keefe's d. m. *Minna Troil*, 8 st. 2 lb. 4 3 3

A beautiful Race all round—*Ellen* leading with her usual spirit until passed the distance post, when the Horse gained on her, won hand, somely. *Harlequin* the favorite. Time 3' 7"

Captain Wyatt's gr. f. *Cottage Maid*, 8 st. 2 lb. beat Mr. O'Keefe's *Leonora*, by *Flamingo*, 8 st. 4 lb.—1½ miles—a very fine Race all round, won by a length with great difficulty. Time 2' 39"

**Bombay Races.****BOMBAY RACES, FIRST MEETING, JANUARY 7, 1823.****FIRST DAY—TUESDAY, JANUARY 7.**

A Sweepstakes of 20 Gold Mohurs for all Arab Horses, that have never started for Plate, Purse, Match, or Sweepstakes—heats two miles, weight for age, Byculla Standard. The Horses to be bona fide the property of Subscribers, and the Stakes to be open till the 1st of November 1823.—Mares and Geldings allowed 3 lb.—Seven Subscribers.

	Heats.
Mr. Law's <i>Advocate</i> , .....	6 dr.
Captain Spiller's <i>Jack</i> , .....	3 2
Captain Thew's <i>Roxley</i> , .....	5 5
Mr. Crawford's <i>Rob Roy</i> , .....	1 1
Mr. Malcolm's <i>Fitz James</i> , .....	2 2
Mr. Winterton's <i>Snowdrop</i> , .....	4 4

Time { 1st Heat 4' 10"  
2d Heat 4' 13"

A Plate of 50l. from the Fund, and 5 Gold Mohurs each Subscriber, for all Arab Horses, weight for inches, 14 hands, carrying 9 st.—heats one and a half mile.

	Heats.
Captain Spiller's <i>Tom Thumb</i> , .....	2 1 1
Mr. Meredith's <i>Sulky</i> , .....	1 4 3
Mr. Crawford's <i>Forester</i> , .....	3 3 3
Captain Havelock's <i>Clinker</i> , .....	4 2 4

This Race was concluded at so late an hour, that we were unable to obtain the time from any authentic source, and the same cause prevents our giving a fuller account of the Sport.

There was an interesting and well contested Private Match between Mr. Elliot's *Proxy*, and Mr. Meredith's *Collector*, one and a half mile, 8 st. 4 lb. each, which was won by the former in 3' 6"

**Deaths.**

On the 25th instant, S. T. GOAD, Esq. of the Honorable Company's Civil Service, aged 44 years.

At Madras, on the 5th instant, of the Cholera Morbus, Mr. H. M. M'BRAIN, aged 35 years; leaving a Wife and five Children, with a large circle of friends to lament his loss.

At Bombay, on the 6th instant, ELIAS, the infant Son of Captain J. B. DUNSTONVILLE, Paymaster, Baroda Subsidiary Force.

At Bombay, on the 1st instant, at his house in Georgan, SUNKERSETT BARODIALETT, a Hindoo, a gentleman of high spirit and independence, of great wealth and respectability, well known among the European Gentry of that Island, and highly esteemed by the cast of Goldsmiths, of which he was a principal member. His property was principally acquired in commercial pursuits in which he conducted himself with honor and propriety, and met with that reward which his integrity merited. He died at the advanced age of 82, and until within a short period of his death was in full possession of all those estate faculties for which he was so remarkable. He had latterly lived retired and secluded from the busy occupations of life, but nevertheless continued to receive the visits of his numerous English friends at his splendid and brilliant mansion where he died, and which for its taste and internal elegance was much admired. He maintained and continued to the last his correspondence with those friends in England who in public and private life in this country were valuable and distinguished members of society, and by whom his death will not be more sincerely regretted than by his numerous friends and the various castes of the native society in Bombay.